

SCHOOLS FIGHT BACK

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THE OUTING OF ELLEN

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Eurosceptic candidates – not their parties – win The Times vote

The Times today advises voters to support general election candidates who are opposed to further European integration. In a break with recent tradition, the newspaper has decided to refrain from endorsing any of the main parties. Instead it recommends support for the candidates – mainly Conservative and Labour, but including representatives of four other parties – who have declared their Eurosceptic credentials. A list of recommended candidates appeared in the

newspaper yesterday and will be updated on polling day. In a leading article, *The Times* identifies two striking developments of the past Parliament: the transformation of Labour under Tony Blair into an electable party; and the collapse of the "body and spirit" of the Conservative Party. It says of Labour: "The speed of this change – the abandonment of so many anachronistic and disastrous policies in so short a period of time – has been extraordinary. *The Times* has strongly



supported those changes and the way in which they have been made. So great has been the speed of change that faith and imagination, rather than firm policy pronouncements, must form the source of optimism for those millions who intend to

vote Labour for the first time this week. *The Times*, however, will not endorse what is "still a tower of dreams". Of the Conservatives, it says: "While Labour has been changing itself, the very momentum of its metamorphosis has

been enough to keep it together. For the Conservatives there has been no equivalent movement to keep the party upright. A tiny mandate from 1992, tightening tensions between Right and Left, reactive leadership and unnecessarily prolonged recession have taken a heavy toll."

Because the divisions on Europe are within the parties rather than between them "our endorsement in this election, therefore, falls not on a party slate but upon individual candi-

dates whose European ideals we support... For *The Times* the European future is the fulcrum of public policy. A proper sense of the choices now facing this country, a profound vision of how the current moves to unite Europe could all so easily bring its collapse, a clear-sighted understanding of the gulf between what our partners say, what they mean and what they really want: that is what Britain needs to be able to vote for."

Leading article, page 23

72 hours left to save UK, says Major

By Philip Webster, James Landale and Arthur Leathley

THE Prime Minister issued a warning last night that there were "only 72 hours" to save the United Kingdom.

After a whirlwind tour covering England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, John Major stood outside Parliament to proclaim the "win threat" posed by a Labour government: the break-up of the UK and a sell-out to Europe.

It was a carefully stage-managed event and dismissed as a stunt by Labour – which yesterday ordered more than 200 former MPs into marginal constituencies for a final campaigning blitz after Tony Blair cautioned against complacency and insisted that Britain was "not a landslide country". But as Big Ben chimed six, Mr Major said the election was not just about who would govern Britain for the next five years: "It is predominantly a question of what that Government will do over the next five years."

He said of the Amsterdam summit next month: "What is at stake is whether or not this

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country finds itself dragged inexorably in the direction of a federal Europe." The Tories would "draw a line in the sand" against any further integration, he told staff from the nearby Conservative Central Office. "But if Mr Blair went to Amsterdam, there would be a Dutch auction of British interests, a surrender of our veto."

The second threat, he said, came from Labour's plans for devolution to Scotland and Wales. "I have not a shred of doubt that they would lead in the short term to friction with Scotland, and in the slightly longer term, to fracture with Scotland, a break up of the United Kingdom."

"The message I would give to you, to the British nation, we have 72 hours to save the Union. 72 hours to make sure that the nature of our government is not changed irrevocably for the worse, with power draining away from Westminster."

"There are 72 hours in which to save the Union. 72 hours to make sure that the system of Government that has prevailed in this country for a very long time is protected and enshrined, and not through a combination of thoughtlessness and ill-digested policies, and a failure to understand what these policies mean – not broken up and divided in one direction towards the EU and the other to a devolved Parliament across the United Kingdom."

At the same time, Mr Blair and John Prescott were preparing to lead Labour's final onslaught on the marginals. Mr Blair has telephoned each of the party's regional secretaries urging a last effort to ensure the largest possible turn-out on Thursday. Staff



John Major is applauded by Tory Central Office staff as he appears on Abingdon Green outside Parliament to call on to voters "to save Britain"

have been emptying out of the campaign headquarters in Westminster to bolster the fight on the ground. Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, said it marked the most intensive effort ever mounted by the party in the closing stages of an election.

It is the first time that so many former MPs have taken time off from their own constituencies to join the fight in

marginals. "We are fighting for every vote and taking nothing for granted," Mr Brown said. The party had been boosted by the recruitment of 11,000 members and by £3 million in donations from 100,000 people since the campaign began. These have funded a final advertising blitz in tabloid newspapers and women's magazines.

If the effort bears fruit and

Mr Blair inflicts a heavy defeat on the Conservatives, Mr Major is expected to announce on Friday that he intends to step down as leader – although his close allies believe that he will stay on until to July to allow an orderly transition to the new leader and avoid an immediate "bloodbath".

One told *The Times* yesterday: "John will do what is

right for the party. I do not think he wants John Redwood to win. One way of helping Redwood would be to go early."

The candidates would be certain to include Michael Portillo, who today makes one of the most savage Cabinet attacks on Mr Blair since the campaign began and says that people who think the Conservatives need a spell in opposi-

tion are simply wrong.

Writing in *The Times*, the Defence Secretary accuses the Labour leader of "looking into the television cameras and lying to the British people about the Government's pension reforms."

"Tony Blair's highest aspiration is just to echo what is popular. He is a follower not a leader. That is why he tries to be all things to all men."

Britain ready for Zaire evacuation

Britain prepared for an evacuation of its nationals from Zaire by sending 200 soldiers with three Hercules C130 transport aircraft to central Africa.

The Ministry of Defence said the troops would be based in Libreville, the capital of Gabon, to be ready to deploy to Zaire.

Refugees found, page 18

Tighter security for the Maze

Stricter security measures are to be imposed inside the Maze prison after a government inquiry into an IRA attempt to tunnel out of the jail found that the paramilitaries controlled the H-blocks.

Full searches of the H-blocks are to be made more frequently. Page 2

'Strictly off-record' Currie submits a £2,000 bill to paper

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

EDWINA CURRIE has sent a £2,000 bill for journalistic services to the newspaper which published her predictions of a Labour landslide.

Tory strategists were appalled by Mrs Currie's decision to fax an invoice to Richard Addis, the Editor of *The Express*, only 24 hours after she claimed that her comments in the Sunday edition were off the record.

They had spent the last 48 hours assuring journalists that Mrs Currie had been "stitched-up" by the newspaper whose chief executive is Lord Hollick, a Labour peer and close ally of Tony Blair. The remarks appeared in a signed article.

The ensuing controversy, which was generated by her blunt criticism of John Major and the Tory campaign, overshadowed the latest Tory attempt to launch a lightbulb. The Prime Minister was reported to be furious.

But her attempt to seek payment might not succeed. Mrs Currie never put pen to paper. The offending article was based on a 25-minute telephone conversation with a member of the newspaper's political staff.

Mrs Currie, one of the most outspoken pro-European members of the Tory party, warmed to her theme during the conversation about the

failings of the election campaign.

Not only did the former Health Minister predict that her own South Derbyshire seat was a lost cause, she also forecast a Labour majority of more than 100 and said that Mr Major looked weak against Tony Blair.

Mrs Currie, who for the second day in succession was uncharacteristically unavailable for comment, was virtually disowned by the party high command.

Her own supporters, who are fighting an uphill battle to retain her seat, which is number 20 on the Labour target list, were also enraged.

One senior Tory campaigner said last night: "Well this gives the lie to the fact her comments were off the record. If she gets the £2,000 I hope she donates it to the redundancy fund of any Tories who lose her seat thanks to her unhelpful comments."

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, speaking in Blackpool yesterday, said: "I have been trying to defend Edwinna on several occasions over the years. I must say I find it difficult on this occasion."

Mr Clarke added: "I have heard her explanation that she was speaking off the record. I would prefer that she did not speak like that on or off the record."

Cabbies ride to rescue of colleague

By Adrian Lee

A MINICAB driver's call for help was answered by almost 100 colleagues who formed a cordon in their cars to trap his alleged attackers. The cabbies sprang into action when they heard John Davis broadcast a coded message for assistance in Hull.

Scores of cars responded, some carrying passengers, and boxed off the city's North Hull estate, until a police helicopter arrived to search the area. Mr Davis, 32, was allegedly threatened with a machete to the throat and a flick knife, but managed to grab his radio.

"It was like the cavalry arriving – it was a great relief," Mr Davis said. "The passengers all joined in the search. There were lasses in their nightgown gear running round helping."

Bill Allen, of his company At Cars, said taxi companies in the city set up the coded call system seven years ago, but the response was unprecedented. Two men were arrested after a heat-seeking device on the helicopter discovered them hiding in a garden. The men, aged 19 and 28, were charged with attempted robbery yesterday and remanded in custody.

Cherie Booth to sit as judge two weeks after the election

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

CHERIE BOOTH will sit as a judge within two weeks of becoming the Prime Minister's wife if Labour wins the election on Thursday.

In addition, in a clear sign that she intends to continue her career at the Bar, Ms Booth, who is a QC, will next week appear for a local authority in a test case over employees' conditions.

Ms Booth, an assistant recorder, is booked to sit for two weeks from May 19 in the City of London and Mayor's Guildhall County Court. She will take the list normally handled by Judge Byrt, QC, which mainly covers personal

injury claims and the occasional breach of contract.

Thomas Fowles, a court official, said: "These cases normally last about two or three days – you might get someone making a claim over an injury that could affect their future employment, perhaps a traffic accident." He added that the court was not usually attended by the public.

An assistant recordership is the first rung on the judicial ladder. Ms Booth must sit for at least 20 weeks a year to fulfil her duties. But Leslie Page, her clerk, confirmed yesterday that, before taking up her judicial appointment, she will be in the Court of Appeal.

She is acting for St Helen's Metropolitan Borough Council in a case keenly watched by employment lawyers. The case is being brought by employees in a special school who underwent changes in their conditions of employment when it was taken over from the local county council by the local borough council.

Some lawyers question that Ms Booth will be able to sustain her practice at the Bar if she moves to Downing Street. They say she will present problems of security, but Heather Hallett, vice-chairman of the Bar, has strongly defended her. "If anyone can manage it, she can," she said.



"My client would like to add that he voted Labour on May 1"

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NEWS IN BRIEF

POLL EN INFORMATION LINE OPENS

The company, which is paying for leaflets and informa-

It found that people in high rateable value properties, which tend to be homes with large, thirsty gardens and two cars, on average use 36 per cent less water once they are on meters. People living in low rateable value properties first cut back on water use by up to 15 per cent, but eventually increased consumption as they became comfortable with metering.

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

Within hours, far-reaching measures to tighten security in the H-blocks at the Maze jail were published in a statement. The absence of proper security

BY RICHARD FORD AND STEPHEN FARRELL

The site for the new jail at Onley is adjacent to an existing young offender institution housing 520 inmates. Paul Green, head of planning with Daventry council, said it would go before the planning committee on May 28 or July 2 but approval was by no means certain.

"Normally development in open countryside is frowned upon. The Home Office will have to come forward with some convincing reasons to persuade the committee that this is acceptable," he said.

practical demonstrations on water conservation in gardens. David Sugden, manager at Bayley's Garden Centre in Shrewsbury, Shropshire, said yesterday that they were drawing up a list of 12 plants and 12 items such as watering

By Emma Wilkins

Sandra Hurley leaving the High Court yesterday

The case continues.

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

senior member of the team. The inquiry has previously heard that Michelle had admitted taking drugs and her mother Carolann Paul, 37, had been a drug addict. Her

stepfather, John Paul, was in prison for drug-related offences at the time of her death. Michelle died 23 days after taking Ecstasy at a rave in Aberdeen in November 1995. Her death came a week after

that of Leah Betts. The inquiry continues.

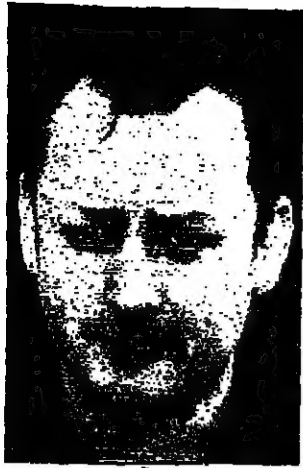
An elderly widow praised police yesterday after they reunited her with a tortoise that has been her companion for 20 years. Alice Ward, 83, found the tortoise, called Humphrey, was missing after a street vendor called at her home in Oundle, Northamptonshire, last Thursday. Three days later a police officer in Nottingham, 90 miles away, recognised Humphrey after he had been found in a bag.

Neither palace officials nor the police were last night quite certain whether to believe the man who claimed to have security at Buckingham Palace an unauthorised intruder in the gardens.

Neither palace officials nor the police were last night quite certain whether to believe the claims that he had spent several hours in the palace grounds.

was arrested early yesterday after reportedly hailing a taxi driver in north London and telling him what he had done. The driver contacted the police.

Singer accuses Boy George of being obsessive liar



Boy George said the attraction was instant

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE singer Boy George was accused in the High Court yesterday of being an obsessive and vindictive liar by the man he had earlier described as the love of his life.

Kirk Brandon told the 35-year-old pop star that he was a "professional liar" who had tried to destroy him by claiming that their friendship in the 1980s had been a sexual relationship.

He accused the former lead singer of Culture Club of being obsessed with trying to "out" him as a homosexual even though he was happily married with a daughter. Mr

Brandon, 40, from East Dulwich, London, is suing Boy George for malicious falsehood in a 1995 autobiography in which George wrote: "Sleeping with Kirk wasn't sex, it was absolute love." He is also suing Boy George over a song, called *Unfinished Business*, on his last album.

Mr Brandon, 40, has admitted sharing a bed with Boy George after going to late-night clubs in the early 1980s but denies that homosexual activity took place.

Mr Brandon, who is representing himself, said: "I put it to you that you were obsessed, have been obsessed and probably still are obsessed with

me. Have you ever thought about stopping, leaving me alone?" Boy George replied: "I wouldn't describe myself as obsessed with you. I said in my book that you were very talented and I loved you. Where is the damage in that?"

Mr Brandon, who enjoyed chart success with the bands Theatre of Hate and Spear of Destiny, questioned him about *Unfinished Business*. "Did you enjoy writing such a vindictive and malicious song?" Boy George replied: "You were in a band called Theatre of Hate. Kirk. You weren't called the Blushing Flowers. What does that say?" Earlier, giving evidence,

Boy George told Mr Justice Douglas Brown that Mr Brandon had become the "great love of my life" after they met in a pub in 1980. "I didn't know who he was but I thought he was really handsome, very charming and funny, one of those people you meet and instantly become friends with. I was sexually attracted from the moment I saw him and I knew Kirk was attracted to me instantly."

After a few weeks Mr Brandon asked to stay at his squat, Boy George said. On the first night they kept their T-shirts and underwear on but hugged and kissed, he said, but after that their relationship grew

into a sexual one and they had spent more than 100 nights together.

He said: "Kirk was the great love of my life at that time. We were inseparable. We held hands in public. At the time I was walking around in high-heeled shoes and very outrageous clothes. I was very well known in London."

Their friendship ended after a night out when Boy George was dressed as Boadicea. "Kirk said he needed space away from me. We had a violent argument. He left and I smashed up my room." They resumed their relationship for a short time, he said, but then did not see each other

for several years. Boy George said he had described Mr Brandon as his boyfriend in several articles and had not received complaints. He said he had written asking Mr Brandon if he wanted to make comments about his autobiography but had received no feedback.

He told his counsel, Patrick Maloney, that he wrote *Unfinished Business* when he learnt that Mr Brandon had married. "I was expressing my true feelings about Kirk. He has denied our relationship for 20 years. If there was no relationship, then why are we in court 20 years later fighting about it?" The case continues.



Brandon denies that friendship was sexual



Four Quantock staghounds wait to be let loose at the season's last formal meet yesterday. The hunt will now not be able to use National Trust land in the Quantock Hills

National Trust ban may spell staghounds' death

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

THE Quantock Staghounds may have to put down 60 hounds because of the National Trust's decision to ban stag-hunting on its land from the end of this month.

The hunt, which killed one deer yesterday in what may well have been the last formal meet in its 90-year history, will go, longer be licensed to use 900 acres of trust-owned country in the Quantock Hills in north Somerset, leaving it with insufficient land to hunt regu-

larly. Roly Ford, the hunt chairman, said: "We have got 60 hounds between two and seven years old and we fear we may end up having to put them down, but we will be fighting to avoid this if at all possible."

"Staghounds are trained to follow a deer's scent and it is highly unlikely they could be retrained to hunt foxes. Nor would they make good pets, as they are pack animals which have lived in kennels all their lives. If they have to be put down, it would probably be with a pistol."

The Quantock Staghounds, which has up to 100 riders and 700

followers, met yesterday on the lawns of Bagborough House, near Taunton, where presentations were made to loyal hunt servants. The deer-hunting season ends at the end of April and resumes in August.

Mr Ford said the hunt committee had not yet decided whether the Quantock Staghounds would give up hunting completely. "We may still be able to hunt occasionally — if the Devon and Somerset Staghounds invite us to use their territory — but certainly not twice a week, as in the past. The trust land we have been banned from is in five separate

blocks, fragmenting our hunting territory and making it unusable."

Bill Fewings, the master of the Quantock, who has hunted for 50 years, said he saw little hope of the hunt being saved. The hunt says that there will now be indiscriminate shooting of red deer by landowners, who had previously relied on the hunt to control deer numbers.

But John Hicks, of International Animal Rescue, said: "It has been one of the greatest days of my life. The deer have gone through terrible suffering. They would be better off being shot out of existence than

undergoing the horrendous suffering if hunting continued."

The trust decided on the ban in response to a two-year inquiry by Professor Patrick Bateson, an animal behaviour expert at Cambridge University. He found that hunted deer suffered even greater stress than severely injured animals.

The ban also covers 12,000 acres used by the Devon and Somerset Staghounds and some 400 acres used by the Tiverton Staghounds. The New Forest Buckhounds will lose about 370 acres. They plan to continue on non-trust land.

Girlfriend hit Bondi 'killer' with handbag

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

THE girlfriend of Brian Hagland, the London postman beaten to death near Bondi Beach last year, tried to save him by hitting his attacker with her handbag, a Sydney court was told yesterday.

Twice Connie Casey struck Aaron Martin over the head, but he simply looked up and continued the assault, the court was told. The attack was recounted during the prosecution's opening statement at coronial proceedings against Mr Martin, 23, who is accused of murder, and Sean Cushman, who is charged with being an accessory.

Chris Maxwell, for the prosecution, said that Mr Hagland, 28, had been walking home with Miss Casey, 25, in the early hours of September 7 when Mr Martin set upon him. He said the accused was drunk and in a mood of explosive physical aggression. "He was looking for someone to take it out upon," Mr Maxwell said.

Mr Martin, waving his clenched fists at Mr Hagland, shouted: "Come on then!" Mr Hagland replied that he did not want trouble.

As Mr Martin started to hit him they fell onto the road, wrestling. At one stage Mr Martin had his hands around Mr Hagland's throat and seemed to be strangling him, the court was told. While Miss

Casey tried to separate them by hitting Mr Martin with her handbag, he continued to punch Mr Hagland.

The exact circumstances of what happened next were still unclear, Mr Maxwell said, but at some stage Mr Hagland was hit by a passing bus as it turned a corner. The prosecution said that, in the struggle, Mr Hagland may have walked or fallen into the side of the bus; he may have been savagely beaten and fallen into the path of the bus unconscious; or he may have been pushed into the bus.

A post-mortem examination found that Mr Hagland, who was on a working holiday, had suffered multiple injuries. He also sustained numerous fractures consistent with the impact of the bus or having being jumped upon.

"The Crown says he [Martin] caused the death of Mr Hagland and that at all times had the intent to inflict grievous bodily harm or to kill him," Mr Maxwell said. "It doesn't matter how much or how little the bus was involved, there was a causal link between the defendant's action and the death of the deceased."

The court was also told that Mr Cushman had allegedly told friends that Mr Martin had pushed Mr Hagland into the side of the bus.

The trial continues.

Boy, 14, left scarred by his father's beatings

By A STAFF REPORTER

A BOY was scarred for life after being repeatedly whipped, punched, kicked and throttled by his father, a college lecturer. The 14-year-old boy told Southwark Crown Court he would be forced to lay naked on his bed as his father beat him with a rubber shower hose.

The boy was giving evidence at the trial of his father, who denies three charges of unlawful wounding and one of cruelty between September 1994 and last August. During one severe beating last August "I was begging him to stop", the boy, from Brixton, south London, said. "But he told me I should not scream. He then shut and locked the window so the neighbours could not hear me."

After this incident, the boy was told to get out of the flat and ran away. When the police found him he told them of the alleged cruelty.

When his father, 42, learnt what he had done, he spoke of handing out "the beating of my life", which left him so scared he felt he could never live with his father again, the boy said. A teacher to whom he had described his ordeals contacted social services and he was taken into care.

The father told police that he had tried to "chastise" his son. The trial continues.

Abuse victims see couple's downfall after 20 years

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

AN ELDERLY couple who abused frightened youngsters at a children's home 20 years ago were sent to prison yesterday. Many of the victims wept while describing the ordeals of their childhood in court.

Joyce Beesley, 70, was jailed for five years at Liverpool Crown Court, convicted of cruelty to 13 children. Her husband, Kenneth, 73, found guilty of ill treating one child and indecently assaulting four girls, was given 2½ years.

The offences spanned 13 years, ending in 1978. Beesley had been employed by the city council as house-mother at the six-bedroom home in Fazakerley. Her husband, lived there *de facto* as the house father.

Punishments for minor misdemeanours such as looking out of the window included being made to cut the grass with scissors, and having to stand naked for hours with their hands on their heads while others were encouraged to ridicule them.

One boy was left sitting in a chair in the garden all day until sunburnt and blistered. Red-wetting was punished by being tied or pinned into a pillowcase and left on the floor or bed. The indecent assaults involved three girls, aged between 11 and 14. One of them was abused two or three times

a week for several months. The children spent much of their time sitting in a cold, spartan dining room, where they had poor, inadequate food. The wife, described as the dominant personality, sent children to buy good food but that was for the couple and their own two children. One hungry girl ate toothpaste.

Children were not allowed out of their secured bedrooms at night, even to go to the lavatory. Potties were left in the rooms, even for teenagers.

Jailing the couple, from Walton, Liverpool, Judge Elizabeth Steel said the offences had been systematic and created an "atmosphere of fear". The children were "among the most vulnerable members of society — they were in care because of troubled family backgrounds, needing stability, care, understanding and a happy loving atmosphere."

Judge Steel, who recommended the two investigating detectives for a formal commendation, said that the children had instead suffered nightmares, guilt, anger, distress and mental health problems.

After the hearing one victim, Paul Taylor, 41, from Oldham, said he was delighted with the sentences: "It's more than I expected but it's no more than they deserve."

Wife killed husband in argument over lettuce

By RICHARD DUCE

A MOTHER stabbed her husband through the heart after he complained about the quality of the lettuce in a salad for their evening meal. They had been married for 29 years.

Brenda Richardson, 54, a Sunday school teacher, was jailed for two years for manslaughter yesterday, after Manchester Crown Court was told that she had no recollection of events that led to the fatal dispute other than her husband, Brian, 56, criticising the lettuce leaves.

Howard Bentham, QC, for the prosecution, said there were no known problems in the marriage. The couple from Nelson, Lancashire, had two grown-up sons. In telephone calls to friends an hour before the killing, Richardson had been "jovial and light-hearted".

She had called the emergency services and tried to stem the bleeding with a rug. Her plea of not guilty to murder was accepted.

Richard Henriques, QC, for the defence, said: "There must have been a great deal of cumulative tension in the relationship. There was a major disagreement, out of the blue, over the food that night, but all she is sure of is that she did not take up the knife intending to use it. She misses him dreadfully."

Intruder claims he had free Palace tour

By ALAN HAMILTON

POLICE were last night questioning a man who claimed to have breached security at Buckingham Palace and made an unauthorised tour of the private gardens.

Neither palace officials nor police were certain whether to believe the man's claims that he had spent several hours roaming the heavily guarded grounds of the Queen's official London residence. He was arrested early yesterday morning after reportedly hailing a taxi to Camden Lock in north London and telling the driver what he had done. The driver contacted the police.

With the general election three days

away and a spate of IRA bomb threats on their mind, police took the matter seriously, especially as the man was allegedly allowed in to the Palace on legitimate business and shown out by police officers at the main gate who bade him a polite "Good morning".

Neither the Queen nor the Duke of Edinburgh was in residence. If the man's claims are true, he joins a long line of palace intruders, led by Michael Fagan, who found his way into the Queen's bedroom in 1982, spoke to her while she frantically and fruitlessly tried to summon help, and provoked a major review of Palace security.

Since then Palace-busting, often by the deranged or obsessed, has grown in

popularity. In 1993 a group of lesbian anti-nuclear demonstrators scaled the walls and barbed wire with ladders, and sat on the palace lawn singing and chanting before armed police rounded them up. The following year, a naked American paragon braved chilly February weather to land on the roof. In 1995 a Wakefield man was given two years' probation after driving 200 miles from his Yorkshire home to ram the Palace gates, causing significant damage.

But one intruder remains undetected. Early last year an urban fox slunk past police, guardsmen and security cameras to enter the gardens, where it killed the Queen's nine lamingtons. The beast has never been apprehended.

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Alan Bainbridge -
his return to the

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DISCUSS

This is the statistic John Major didn't want you to see. The World Education League judges countries on how their education system meets the needs of a competitive economy. It shows that Britain's children are not being educated to the standards of other countries. Currently we lag behind Taiwan, The Philippines and Colombia. Government underfunding has led to teacher shortages, overcrowded classrooms, and thousands of children sharing books. No wonder more than 48,000 children failed to pass a single GCSE exam in 1996. Britain deserves better. If these statistics make you cross, you know where to put that cross on polling day.



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Confusion over tuning hits Channel 5 figures

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CHANNEL 5 is reaching less than half the country, despite promises at its launch four weeks ago that at least 60 per cent of the population would be able to watch it.

The new station's own research shows that only half the people who should be able to receive Channel 5 have tuned their television sets to its frequencies. Where people have tuned in, many are still faced with pictures and sound of such poor quality that they would rather not watch at all.

David Elstein, chief executive of Channel 5, conceded that the station's average share of weekly viewing, at 2.8 per cent, was lower than the 3 per cent it had expected by now. It is aiming to reach 5 per cent by the end of the year. "We have conducted extensive surveys and, on the evidence we have got so far, about 50 per cent of the population seems to have tuned into us — it's 5 per cent lower than we thought we would be."

He added that many viewers appeared to have confused tuning in with retuning. Be-

fore the station was launched, video and satellite equipment had to be retuned in about ten million homes that might have suffered signal interference. Retuners routinely tuned people's television sets to receive Channel 5.

Many people who had not received a retuning visit, because interference was not a problem in their area, may not realise that they still needed to tune their sets to Channel 5 if they want to watch it.

Mr Elstein said: "It is 15 years since the last terrestrial channel was launched in the United Kingdom and many people buy preset televisions, so it is not surprising that they

don't know how to tune in their sets."

Channel 5 will be launching a big marketing campaign to inform people of the need to tune their sets. Advertisements for big programmes, such as its exclusive live coverage of England's football match against Poland on May 31, will carry a reminder that people will need to tune in.

It is still unknown exactly how many homes will suffer poor reception. The Confederation of Aerial Industries has estimated that up to three million homes may need new aerials, costing from £40 to £150 each, in order to receive Channel 5 clearly. Mr Elstein

denied reports that the station was considering subsidising the costs of new booster aerials.

He added that at least 2.3 million people would benefit from clearer pictures when Channel 5 switched on nine new transmitters across the country in July.

Bill Barker, broadcast director of the media agency J. Walter Thompson, said that advertisers were disappointed with the station's performance and were anxious about poor reception putting people off watching. The one good thing to come from all this is that it is pushing Channel 5 to invest more in programming, such as films and sports, than it had originally planned in order to persuade people it is worthwhile tuning in.

Mr Barker added that, at present, Channel 5's top performing programmes were films, which were getting audiences of one million to 2.8 million. "The big challenge for Channel 5 will be for them to increase their audiences for things such as the soap and the news," he said.

FILMS LEAD THE RATINGS

The Broadcast Audience Research Board says that eight out of Channel 5's top ten performing programmes for the week ending on April 13 were feature films. Only four films, *Highlander*, *Punchline*, *Trapped and Deceived* and *This Boy's Life*, attracted more than one million viewers. The most successful screening has been *Mrs Doubtfire*, with 2.85 million viewers, on Sunday, April 6. Advertisers are concerned about the relatively weak performance of the rest of the channel's programming, particularly its soap opera, *Family Affairs*, which has audiences hovering around the 500,000-600,000 mark.

Rare rhinos arrive for breeding programme

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

TWO wild Asian rhinos from Nepal are due in Britain today for an international captive breeding programme at Whipsnade Wild Animal Park in Bedfordshire.

The two females, aged 14 to 16 months old, are from the Royal Chitwan National Park, where government wildlife staff, in collaboration with conservation groups including the World Wide Fund for Nature, have managed to boost the population of Asian, or one-horned, rhinos from 40 in 1975 to almost 500.

Simon Tonge, senior curator at London Zoo, said: "Basle Zoo has been very successful at breeding one-horned rhinos over the past 30 to 40 years, but there are now a lot of the 150 animals in captivity related to the so-called Basle line. We need some wild animals to improve the genetic variation."

The only other place in which the animals are found are the swampy grasslands of



Worldwide there are fewer than 2,000 Asian rhinos, which are killed for their horns

India, mainly in the Kaziranga National Park in Assam. Worldwide there are fewer than 2,000 Asian rhinos. The main threat is from poachers, keen to kill them for their horns, which are used as aphrodisiacs in the Far East. In the Yemen, the horns are carved for daggers.

Whipsnade, which, with London Zoo, is owned by the Zoological Society of London, has a female and a male one-horned rhino. Another, their son, is at Chester Zoo.

Richard Burge, director general of the Zoological Society, said: "These animals will remain the property of the

Kingdom of Nepal and their loan is a magnificent statement of confidence and trust from the people of Nepal to the society. These precious and unique animals will enable the UK to contribute significantly to the conservation of a rare species and its fragile habitat."

City rustlers keep lambs on allotment

By PAUL WILKINSON

POLICE have returned a two-week-old lamb found wandering the streets of Sunderland to the North Yorkshire farm 50 miles away from which it had been taken.

Lambs are being stolen by urban rustlers from their unfenced pastures and reared in the unlikely setting of council allotments. After six months they are slaughtered, either for the rustler's freezer or for sale from a car boot.

With prime lambs fetching up to £80 each, rustling can be lucrative. Two years ago farmers in upland North Yorkshire lost 3,000 lambs in one season. They have lost 23 in the past month. Owners have now set

up Operation Sheepwatch. Brian Cook, one of its organisers, said: "Urban rustlers are a problem and I would urge anyone in a town who suddenly notices a lamb in the yard or allotment next door to contact us or the police. If the lamb has been bought genuinely as a pet at an auction mart, the owner will have a receipt."

"We take it in turns driving around the area, looking out for anything suspicious, and we have contact numbers if there are any reports of poverters." The lambs have numbers and ear tags identifying the farm they come from.

Alan Bainbridge, of Middleton, from whose farm the lamb found in Sunderland was stolen, said: "The people who take these lambs are idiots. They will waste away without a mother and proper feed. It's hard enough to rear them on a farm, let alone in someone's back yard."

Tony Lidgate, spokesman for North Yorkshire Police, said: "Operation Sheepwatch has proved very successful, although rustling is still a problem, with £100,000 worth of sheep being stolen in the county each year. Large-scale rustlers will turn up with a truck and two dogs, but the mere presence of farmers and police patrolling the moors is often enough to put them off."



Alan Bainbridge with his returned lamb

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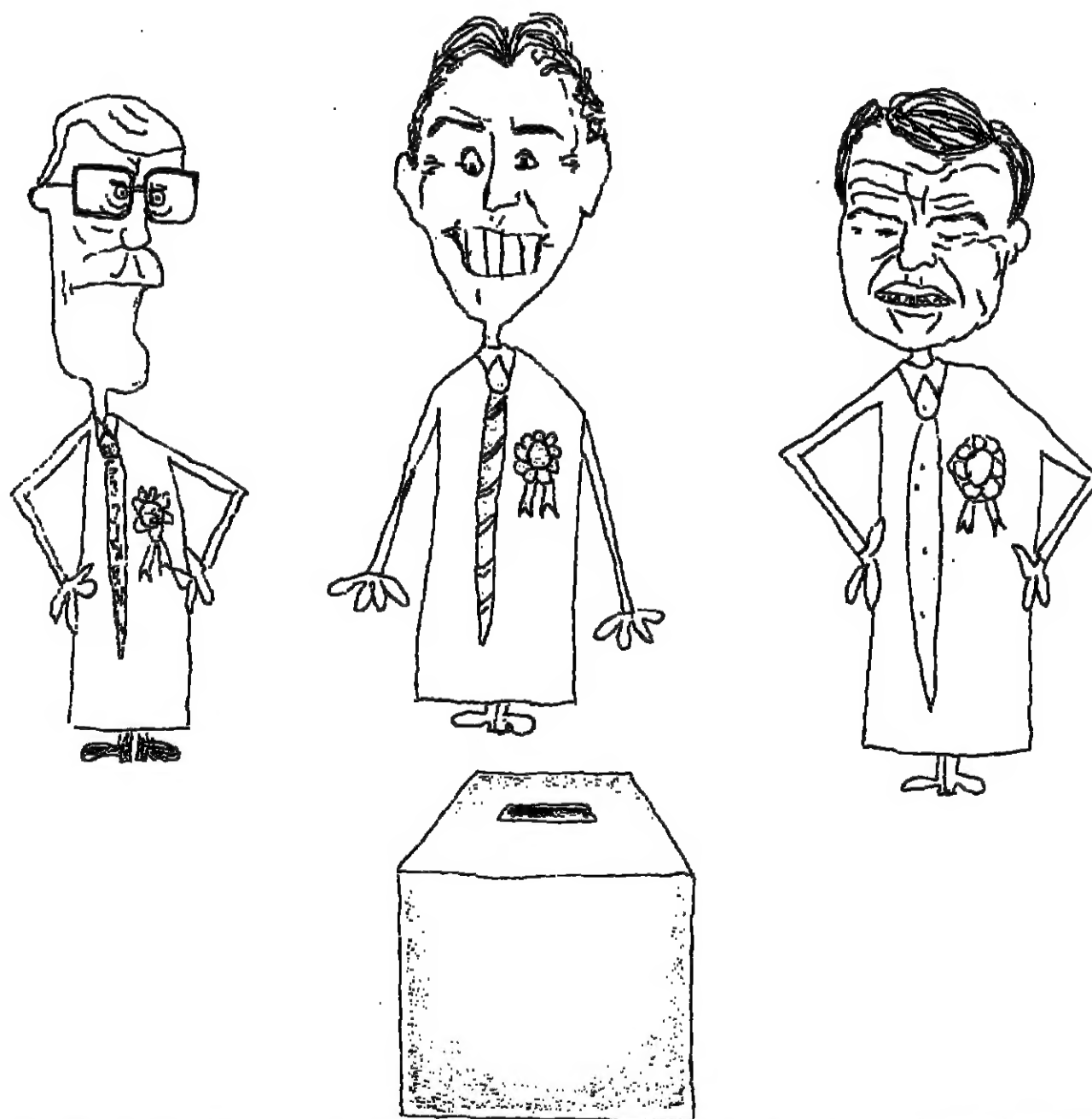
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THE TIMES TUESDAY
**Son must pay
for care,**

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Vicar's w taking th

By RUTH GILPOLL, Esq.

A TENTH of the clergy in England and in some parts of Wales are proportionately over 60 years of age. Five accurate surveys of the clergy have been published since 1800, and the average age of the clergy has risen steadily.

The Survey of the Clergy of the Association of Ministers in Wales, which covers the north-west of England, covers the ordination of 10,000 priests in England in 1904, and shows that the average age of the clergy has risen from 35 to 40 years. The change has been due to the fact that many of the older clergy have died, and the younger clergy have remained.

By the end of 1904, there were 10,000 licensed ministers in the diocese. Of these, 10,000 were aged 40 or over, and 10,000 were under 40.

More than 10,000 ministers were ordained in 1904, and more than 10,000 chaplains were ordained in 1904. The number of ministers in the diocese was 10,000 in 1904, and the number of chaplains was 10,000 in 1904.

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Son must sell home to pay for mother's care, judge rules

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A MAN who gave up his job to look after his ailing mother must sell his home to pay for her care, the High Court ruled yesterday. The landmark ruling means that people who move back to the family home to look after someone who is ill risk losing the roof over their heads if the sick relative has to move into residential care.

The ruling does not affect the rights of a husband or wife to keep their home if their spouse has to go into care. However, anyone else, including children, who live in a house caring for sick relatives are covered by the ruling. Help the Aged received 3,000 inquiries last year from carers in this predicament.

The test case involved David Harcombe, 52, who emigrated to Australia in 1976 to become a social worker. In 1991 he returned to Britain to look after his mother, Faith, who had suffered from Parkinson's disease and had been forced to leave her four-bedroom house at Watchet in Somerset and go into care.

Because her son could look after her, she was able to move back to her house, but in 1993 she suffered a series of strokes

which meant she needed full-time care again and moved to a residential home in Minehead. Her income was £500 a month short of the fees, and Somerset County Council decided that her home must be sold to meet the difference.

The council refused to exercise the discretion it has to allow Mrs Harcombe's son to keep the home, partly because he returned to Australia in March 1994 to resume his career. However, he soon gave this up and returned to Somerset. He is now unemployed.

The council agreed that as long as he lived in the house it would not force him to sell, although it continued to claim £500 a month for the care.

His mother died ten days ago, aged 85, with the outstanding bill at £25,000. Interest will now start to accrue on it. Mrs Harcombe's estate is to be divided between her son and his sister, Ann, but the longer the bill is unpaid the less money will be left for them.

Mr Justice Forbes said there was nothing unreasonable in the council's approach. "I have decided that the value of the house should not be disre-

garded because it would not be reasonable to do so in all the circumstances."

It was central to the case that Mr Harcombe returned to Australia in an attempt to re-establish his career. This meant that his current occupation of the house was not attributable to any need for him to care for his mother. "Rather it is attributable to his own decision to give up his job and accommodation in Australia," the judge said.

He agreed that the council was right in deciding not to enforce the charge over Mrs Harcombe's home and sell it while her son still lived there. That was in recognition of his emotional attachment to the property and the support he had given to his mother in her final years. But the concession would give no rights to anyone else who lived there.

The judge adjourned the question of who should pay the action's heavy legal costs.

Wilde to hold forth with weary passers-by

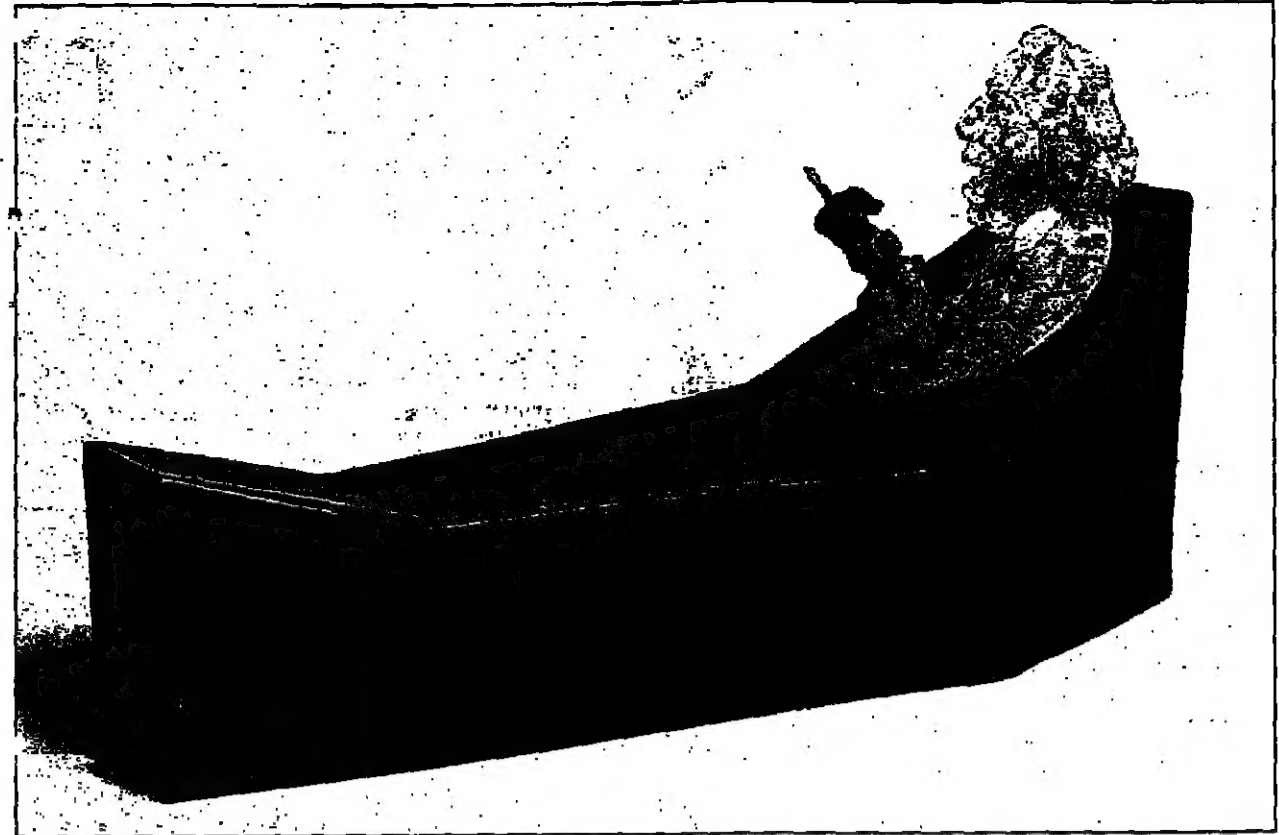
By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A MONUMENT to Oscar Wilde, showing his head and a cigarette-clad hand rising from a granite sarcophagus, has been commissioned from one of Britain's leading artists, Maggi Hambling, to mark next month's centenary of his release from Reading Gaol.

The idea was proposed by the film director Derek Jarman shortly before his death in 1994. A committee, including the actress Dame Maggie Smith, the director Sir Richard Eyre and the poet Seamus Heaney, was subsequently set up to raise the estimated £175,000 needed for the project.

Ms Hambling, seeking to reflect Wilde's wit and sense of the ridiculous, produced an image of him talking, laughing and smoking at one end of the sarcophagus, allowing the passer-by to sit at the other end and hold a conversation with him.

"There are three elements," she said. "The sarcophagus,



The granite and bronze monument by Maggi Hambling allows people to sit on one end and address Wilde

Wilde and whoever sits down on it." Maquettes, drawings and paintings for the work will be exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery next month, before the monument is erected in Adelaide Street, near Trafalgar Square.

Wilde's grandson, Martin Holland, said: "Oscar seems

to be in full conversational flow. It's quite intimate. You feel almost as if he's talking to you. It's got wit and is entirely in keeping with his character."

He said that Wilde—whose trial and conviction in 1895 for homosexual offences scandalised Victorian society—

would have been amused by the whiff of controversy about it. "Westminster council has given its permission but eyebrows were raised about the slightly unusual look. When it's explained to people, they smile. It's going to cause a few comments. Oscar once said that there was only one thing

worse than being talked about — not being talked about." The concept, Ms Hambling explained, was inspired by a line from *Lady Windermere's Fan*: "We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars." It will be among several Wilde quotes to appear on the piece.

Vicar's wives are taking the cloth

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A TENTH of the Church of England's clergy are women, and in some dioceses the proportion is as high as one in five, according to a survey published yesterday. More than 300 are married to clergymen.

The survey by the National Association of Diocesan Advisers in Women's Ministry covers the two years after the ordination of the first women priests in England in March 1994, and shows how quickly the change has spread in many areas, although pockets of traditionalist resistance remain.

By the end of July 1996, there were 1,957 women in licensed ministry in the 43 dioceses. Most are middle-aged, with relatively few below 40 or over 60 years old.

More than 200 are in "sector" ministries, working as chaplains at hospitals, prisons, universities, colleges and in industry. Six out of ten

are married, 306 to clergymen.

The diocese with the largest number of women priests is Oxford, with 101, followed closely by Southwark, with 91, and St Albans, with 80. At the opposite end of the scale are Sodor and Man, which has one; Blackburn and Bradford, with 14 each; and Truro with 15.

The survey destroys the myth that most ordained women are working in part-time or unpaid posts. Fewer than one third of those in active ministry were non-stipendiary, while about half of the total had full-time, stipendiary jobs, with 382 women enjoying the protection of the "person's freehold" in incumbencies, or working as team vicars or priest-in-charge.

Canon Christine Farrington, chair of the national association and a priest in Cambridge, said: "We believe the figures from some dioceses are very heartening."

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Stress levels soar as record numbers sit school exams

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

MOUNTING examination pressure on children from the age of seven onwards means demand for revision guides is soaring, publishers said yesterday, as an unprecedented number of pupils prepared for national tests. Next week 600,000 pupils sit the national curriculum tests for 14-year-olds. Tests for 11-year-olds are the following week, while seven-year-olds are assessed individually throughout the summer term.

With most GCSE and A-level examinations scheduled for June, more than 2.5 million

pupils will be tested over the next two months. A rising school population and increased entries make the total the highest ever.

The boom for publishers is accompanied by stress for candidates. ChildLine, the children's charity, issued a booklet yesterday to help anxious youngsters to cope.

A survey carried out by ChildLine last year showed that a sample of 1,000 secondary school pupils worried more about doing well at school than anything else in their lives. Children as young as 12 were worried about university entrance.

Almost one student in five

now buys a GCSE revision guide in some subjects, pushing total sales close to 100,000 in subjects such as mathematics. Letts Educational, which this year produced its first guides for seven-year-olds, now publishes more than 100 revision guides.

The development of educational CD-Roms has seen new companies challenge the traditional leaders.

One of the companies trying to break into the market, Aircorn International, based in Reigate, Surrey, said that the growth in computer use at home and school was a magnet for information technologists. The company is

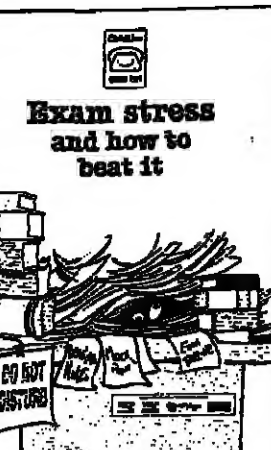
launching a range of GCSE guides next month.

Dave High, its director of business development and marketing, said: "This was an obvious area of diversification for us because we have the software engineers capable of coming up with a product attractive to young people. We think there is tremendous potential in the education market."

Demand for advice on coping with stress is also rising. The Associated Examining Board has seen orders for its free booklet, *How to Do Better in Exams*, reach 700,000 a year and is prepared for another increase this summer. John Hall, ChildLine's counselling support manager, said: "Adults often underestimate the stress that young people are under at exam time, and children sometimes find it hard to ask for help."

He said that for some children the pressure to succeed became unbearable. Revision guides, in book form, cost between £3 for the youngest age-groups and £11 for some A-levels, while most CD-Roms range between £20 and £40. Many schools and local authorities have put on free revision classes for GCSE students, but private tutors can cost up to £20 an hour.

The ChildLine leaflet is available by telephoning 0171-239 1008, or by writing to ChildLine, Royal Mail Building, Studd Street, London N1 0QW. The AEB booklet is available from Barclays Bank on 0800 400100.



The booklet published by ChildLine yesterday

Coping with questions of pressure

WHEN my father was in his late seventies, his sleep was ravaged by nightmares. Asked if he was being disturbed by memories of three years in the trenches in the First World War, he replied: "No, my dreams are of examinations." In old age, the fear engendered by Cambridge examinations was still greater than that induced by German gunners.

Young children, even babies, have the potential to suffer psychological symptoms comparable to that of their elders. Examinations involve a judgment delivered publicly by others of someone's performance. The fear of being judged is anathema to the sensitive and anxious or



MEDICAL BRIEFING

those with a fragile self-esteem, and the potentially depressed or schizophrenic. Parents and tutors should watch out for symptoms which suggest possible psychiatric storms ahead and make every effort to ease the ordeal for the child or under-graduate. If serious symptoms persist, the help of a child psychiatrist should be sought.

The symptoms of pre-examination depression in the

younger child are not always obvious. Depressed and anxious younger children may be unusually withdrawn or apathetic. Equally often, anxiety is shown by complaints of sleeplessness or unexplained aches and pains such as headaches, abdominal pains, nausea or joint troubles. Depression may be hidden under a veneer of attention-seeking or bullying.

Parents have to achieve a difficult compromise through-

out the years of education, taking enough interest so that their children do not feel their scholastic efforts are unimportant, but refraining from giving them so much emphasis that the children feel rejected and unloved if they fail to live up to family expectations.

During examination times, normal routines must be preserved. Regular sleep and meals and not too much coffee are essential. Sleep deprivation triggers psychological symptoms in the most phlegmatic and in the oversensitive can be disastrous.

DR THOMAS
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Deborah Banks: Tesco gave her no maternity pay

Maternity pay case could cost millions

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER supermarket check-out worker began an industrial tribunal claim for maternity pay yesterday, which, if successful, could cost employers millions of pounds in extra payments for two million women who do not earn enough to pay National Insurance contributions.

Deborah Banks is bringing the £700 claim against Tesco and the Secretary of State for Social Security after she was denied maternity pay because she did not earn enough.

She worked at the Tesco store in Gillingham, Kent. However, despite having worked since 1988, she had not earned enough over an eight-week period to qualify for payment of National Insurance contributions and statutory maternity pay.

The industrial tribunal in Ashford was told that Mrs Banks, who is being backed by the charity Maternity Alliance, worked part-time and earned £55.93 per week - on average £1 less than the level set for National Insurance contributions. As a result, she received no maternity pay.

Tess Gill, for Mrs Banks, said the claim under the Equal Pay Act would, if not successful, be challenged through the appeal courts and at the European Court of Justice. The tribunal panel adjourned to discuss whether to accept jurisdiction for the case or refer it straight to the European Court.

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Since 1979, 680 members of the GMB union have been killed at work or died as a result of illness caused at work. Almost half of the deaths were because of exposure to asbestos.

Back pain caused by discontent with work conditions

By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

UNHAPPY workers are particularly prone to back pain, scientists have discovered. A survey of 4,500 adults has shown that the more dissatisfied people are with their jobs the more likely they are to suffer aches at the base of the spine. The problem affects 40 per cent of adults a year.

The researchers from the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council unit at Manchester University found that depression was responsible for more back pain than lifting heavy objects. The researchers discovered that a feeling of not being in control, and general dissatisfaction, was responsible for one in four of all new cases of lower back pain. One in six who developed an ache around the lower spine had shown signs of depression and psychological distress. Social class was not a factor.

Alan Silman, director of the Manchester unit, said the results showed employers needed to improve the working environment and grant workers more autonomy in the way they did their jobs.

The National Back Pain Association has launched a nationwide survey to find out how much the average school-child packs in a satchel. The association says it believes many people suffer from back pain in later life because of the wear and tear on their spine at school. It estimates that a 12 year old, weighing about 60 pounds, carries about a third of their body weight around with them in their school bag.

With schools increasingly requiring children to move from classroom to classroom rather than having teachers coming to them, they have to carry the bag around all day.

The problem is exacerbated by lack of locker space, poorly designed desks, an increase in sedentary lessons such as computing and a decrease in physical education. Although regulations exist to prevent adults from lifting too much, the association says that there are no load-bearing weight restrictions for children.

Trade unionists laid a wreath outside the Health and Safety Executive's London headquarters yesterday in honour of employees who have been killed by poor conditions at work. The event was one of many organised around the country to commemorate Workers' Memorial Day.

Since 1979, 680 members of the GMB union have been killed at work or died as a result of illness caused at work. Almost half of the deaths were because of exposure to asbestos.

One third of learners fail driving theory test

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING EDITOR

THOUSANDS of learner drivers are taking advantage of a fall in the number of people taking driving tests by retaking the tests on the same day to ensure they get their licence.

Since January 1, pupils must pass the extra hurdle of a written examination before they can take the on-road test. The pass rate for the theory test is 65 per cent, and many are not even booking lessons until they have passed.

The fall in the number of people booking an on-road test has led to empty driving centres with unfilled slots for on-road examinations, while driving schools are struggling to find business. More than 300 examiners employed on contract by the Driving Standards Agency are working as little as a day a month. BSM, Britain's biggest driving school, said last night that it was closing 18 branches.

Martin Arnold, for BSM, said: "Applications for road tests have fallen by 54 per cent so there are bound to be gaps for learners to jump into. We are hearing a lot of stories of learners who fail their test, get straight back onto the telephone and make a booking for later in the day and go back - sometimes with the same examiner - to try again."

One man, who had told a new employer he could drive when he had no licence, took his test five times in three days until he passed, according to BSM's King's Heath branch in Birmingham.

BSM warning, page 29

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POLL DAY
-2

Ne

Blair's team
has learned to
laugh off misadventures
which used to
throw it into
a rage, writes
Ben Macintyre

IN Northern Ireland, behind the scenes, the disintegration of the Blair government is well advanced. Labour's well-known policy of 'peace through justice' is being questioned. The Blair government is being seen as a failure.

Three weeks on, the Blair government would be seen as a failure. The Blair government is being seen as a failure. The Blair government is being seen as a failure.

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Pass the sickbag, Paddy
- Paddy Ashdown's
flying campaign

Matthew Parris - page 13

TAX

TIMES guide
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History
repeats itself

Bellingham and Spencer Perceval

Damian Whitworth - page 15

Nervous Labour dares to relax

Blair's team
has learned to
laugh off mishaps
which used to
throw it into
a rage, writes
Ben Macintyre

IN Nottingham, the backdrop of Labour campaign posters behind Tony Blair slowly disintegrated in mid-press-conference as the cameras rolled; in Loughborough the Labour leader was hit by a well-aimed apple core, the first flying fruit of the election; in Leicester Town Hall square he was loudly and persistently heckled by a man sitting high in a tree and demanding that he "tax the rich".

Three weeks ago, this succession of embarrassments would have sent the Blair spin-doctors into a splenetic rage. But the Labour campaign is no longer the brittle and nervous thing it was, for a perceptible whiff of imminent victory is already emanating from the Blair camp, despite strenuous efforts to suppress it.

The visible hardening of the jaw to which Mr Blair is prone in times of stress has gone; instead he wears the unmistakable, slightly guilty demeanour of a boy who knows what he is getting for Christmas but doesn't want to spoil the surprise by letting it be known that he knows.

He is indiscriminately benevolent. With a smile, he thanked whoever had inexpertly tacked up the campaign posters in Nottingham's Central TV studios; there was another vote of thanks and a grin for whoever tossed the remains of his apple on the playing fields of Loughborough University, catching Mr Blair on the arm. He was even grateful for the vociferous interruptions from the Leicester tree-dweller wearing the strange Inca hat.

"Thanks very much," said Mr Blair, like Bruce Forsyth camping it up for the studio audience.

Instead of trading wordless reprimands, as before, the Labour aides now exchange winks and nudges. Cherie Blair performs a peculiar, bobbing, adoring dance as her husband delivers his speeches. But if the body-language of the Blair campaign betokens the euphoria of approaching victory, the spoken language is contrasting and consistently, if not quite credibly, downbeat.

In Nottingham Mr Blair announced that he was taking nothing for granted; in Loughborough he was apparently taking even less for granted; by the time he reached Leicester, here was a man who would not like to predict whether the sun will rise tomorrow, let alone the outcome of the election.

In a little over three hours, he refused to count his chickens (those mascots of this election) a total of eight times, roundly declared that Britain "is not a landslide country" four times, and eschewed "complacency" with metronomic regularity.

Every time he proclaimed his incontinence, however, the Labour leader appeared a little more certain.

Posing with the Loughborough University rugby XV, alongside the splen-



A more composed Tony Blair arriving at Loughborough University yesterday

didly villainous and sweaty figure of former England hooker Brian Moore Mr Blair's determination to avoid premature jubilation and hubris was stretched to the limit. On cue, one of the players turned his back to the cameras and there, suddenly, Mr Blair was standing next to Number Ten. "We don't want to be triumphant," he said, triumphantly.

The contrast with the tension and uncertainty of the campaign's opening days could hardly be more acute. Mr Blair has relaxed, and the mood has been caught by his team, even though many of them are far less certain what their job will be next week than he is.

"Tony Blair hit by Granny Smith" was a headline that would once have sent the aides into turmoil, but yesterday they barely flinched as the chewed missile whizzed unexpectedly out of the crowd of Loughborough students. Similarly in Leicester, when supporters of the Socialist Labour Party set up chants of "New Labour, New Tony" and "Tony Blair", the Labour leader merely shrugged indulgently and shot back: "Every time you voice support for Arthur Scargill's party you do a disservice to everything the Labour Party stands for." The crowd cheered. Mr Blair smiled, but not too much. Mrs Blair bobbed.

The Blair campaign is de-

veloping a glamorous edge that would have been unthinkable in its earlier stages. Take the formation of helicopters laid on to ferry the Labour team and accompanying press around the country, a "presidential" technique of a sort that Mr Blair has hitherto studiously avoided. Even the spin-nurses could be heard humming "The Ride of the Valkyries" the theme from *Apocalypse Now*.

The new celebrity atmosphere seems to be contagious. A man in Leicester caught sight of Mrs Blair working the crowd. He rushed up, stared at her as if appraising a pin-up girl in the flesh. "Very attractive," he declared, and dashed off again.

TONY BLAIR and his family will move into 10 Downing Street if he becomes Prime Minister. It was confirmed yesterday, although building work may have to be carried out to extend the private flat to make it big enough for the family.

The disclosure by Whitehall sources that Mr and Mrs Blair would move their three children into the small flat from their home in Islington, north London, came on a day when Mr Blair had been preaching to his party about the risks of complacency. His office reacted furiously, describing the disclosure as "inaccurate, unhelpful and inappropriate".

Any changes needed for the flat would be paid for by the public purse. At present, it includes four bedrooms, a sitting room, dining room, kitchen and two or three bathrooms. It could be several weeks before it is ready for the Blairs. This would be the first time children have lived at Number 10 since Atlee moved his family out of the flat in the former servants' quarters in 1951.

It is thought unlikely that Mr Blair would sanction any lavish refurbishment, but the flat could be extended by taking over some upstairs training rooms as well as bedrooms used by civil servants who sometimes have to stay overnight.

Any expenditure would have to be approved by Alex Allan, the Prime Minister's principal private secretary, who is the Downing Street



Number 10 may be scene of children's games again

accounting officer. It would have to be justifiable and the decision would be taken in the same way as any other decision in government.

One view at Westminster yesterday was that the Blairs would prefer to delay a family move into Downing Street until Ewan, 13, Nicholas, 11, and Kathryn, nine, are on their summer holidays from school.

The Downing Street flat, entered by a white door

marked "private", is on a mezzanine floor six or seven steps up from the policy unit. The flat is in former servants' cramped quarters and there is no longer any permanent domestic staff to help the Prime Minister. Occasionally staff from Chequers help the Majors mid-week.

A security source said last night that "anything was possible for the Blairs - how they wish to live as a family - if they co-operate with us."

As long as we know who is coming and going, then it would be fine.

Mr Blair, and his wife Cherie have never set foot in the Prime Minister's private accommodation - their only visit to Number 10 was to a state banquet - and it would not be known whether it would suit their family's needs until they are shown the layout on Friday when the election results are known.

In theory, the Blairs could have the pick of any of the government houses in London. There are three flats in the Admiralty, a residence in Carlton Gardens used by the Foreign Secretary, and a Belgraveia home which has been used recently by home secretaries.

The last children to play regularly in the Downing Street garden were Tom and Emily Lawson when their father was Chancellor. Margaret Thatcher was sympathetic to the needs of the Lawsons' young family who lived at No 11. She used to allow them a paddling pool and climbing frame in the garden and the children were banned from using the No 10 garden only on Thursday morning when the Cabinet met.

Harold Macmillan's grandson, the Earl of Stockton, recalled many occasions when he was allowed to play in Downing Street when his grandfather was Prime Minister. At a party, he recalled, he and his cousins ended up dancing the conga in the basement and because all the corridors inter-connected, they ended in the Ministry of Defence building on the other side of Whitehall.

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Win or lose, the red rose party will go on at least until dawn

LABOUR is planning a huge election night party for its staff, regardless of the result of Thursday's poll (James Landale writes).

Invitations to the late-night jamboree will go out today to hundreds of party officials at Labour's London headquarters and others around the country.

Amid Tory accusations of Labour complacency, party officials yesterday said the event was simply a way of thanking staff for their hard work during the campaign.

After the polls have closed at 10pm on Thursday, hundreds of Labour officials

and party workers at Millbank Tower will head over the Thames to the Royal Festival Hall on the South Bank. There, probably in People's Palace restaurant, they will drink, listen to music and watch the results coming in on huge television screens until dawn.

Labour aides said many other party supporters and "B-list" celebrities were also expected to join in the fun. Peter Cunnah, lead singer of D-Ream, whose song *Things Can Only Get Better* has become Labour's anthem for the election, is expected to attend, along with artists such as the Jazz a Belles and the comedy

group, Newsreue. After flying down from Sedgefield, Tony Blair is expected to address the gathering at about 4.30am on Friday.

"This event will take place win or lose," a senior Labour spokesman said. "It is an event with the sole purpose of thanking all those who have worked, both full time or as volunteers, in Labour's central campaign."

Labour is keenly aware of the damaging impact its "victory" party had when they lost the last election in 1992. Officials were seen crying amid unopened bottles of champagne.

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Major's manic odyssey to keep kingdom together



Despite a growing Tory end-of-term feeling, Charles Bremner finds the head looking forward to a new timetable

JOHN MAJOR took up arms yesterday in fight against collapse. However, the threat of disintegration which he invoked in a manic day of aeroplane hopping, did not apply to his own fortunes but the unity of the kingdom.

In a ten-hour odyssey, he visited Belfast, Edinburgh, North Wales and returned to London, to trumpet the evils of disunion in its various forms, from Sinn Féin and the IRA to Labour's devolution plans. Putting the question at its simplest in Scotland, he asked: "Do you want the United Kingdom broken up into bite-size pieces?"

If he was four days from losing the election, he was determined not to show it as he displayed punchy form in a day of symbol-laden "picture bites". From the centre of Belfast to a windswept Welsh hillside, he wielded the future indicative, outlining actions planned for his next term in office.

With his back to the electoral wall and the vultures

circling within his own party, Mr Major seems determined to go down fighting. "He's not in denial," said one aide. "He really believes he's going to win."

It was impossible, however, to disguise the end-of-term feel, especially aboard "kilo alpha", the British Midland Boeing 737 which was on its last outing as his flying campaign battle bus. Festive rather than funeral, the crew had decked the cabin with balloons, draping blue crepe over Mr Major's seats in the first row.

Mr Major spent much of the day plotting his final offensive with Dr Brian Mawhinney and other strategists. The party chairman, also known as the Belfast Strangler, was the hand behind the Prime Minister's most delicate stop, a one-hour visit to Belfast.

He spent only 30 minutes in the city but it was one in the eye for the IRA and their campaign to disrupt the campaign. Before departing, he was offered a touch of the incongruous when Gilbert



Norma makes banner headlines in Edinburgh

Chalk, a London merchant banker and local Tory candidate, called for a jolly "Three cheers for the Prime Minister."

The public school tones of Mr Chalk's "hip hop rays" were echoed in the similarly un-Scottish vowels of Lord James Douglas Hamilton and many Tory loyalists in Edinburgh. Standing by the National Gallery under the shadow of the castle, Mr Major told the Scots to think what was at stake before they voted: "This is maybe a vote that will change the history and future of Scotland and the rest of the UK."

Enjoying himself, he even managed to carve up a few hecklers. Another flight later, in

Wales, the plane-load of media and other retainers were driven off through sheep-strewn countryside for the privilege of watching Mr Major and Norma posing for pictures with Anglesey and the Menai bridge behind them. Mr Major's message from the Welsh stopover was a warning against the extra taxes which he said Wales would pay if Labour was elected and proceeded with a local assembly.

Then it was back into the motorcade and the aeroplane for London, where he stood on the green at Westminster, offering another Union "photo-top" with parliament behind him. Mr Major will wind down the campaign closer to home.

Blame game exposes the twin Tory camps

Andrew Pierce and Philip Webster on how No 10 sidelined Central Office

THE divisions within the Conservative party were laid bare last night when friends of its chairman, Brian Mawhinney, accused Downing Street of setting him up as the scapegoat should the Tories lose the election.

Supporters of Dr Mawhinney, who is in charge of Central Office and election campaign staff, accused their Downing Street counterparts yesterday of briefing against him.

The root of the deepening discontent between the two camps stems from John Major's unilateral decision to put Europe at the centre of the campaign. Mr Major discussed his plans at Downing Street with key aides such as Lord Cranborne, his chief of staff and Howell James, his political secretary.

The Prime Minister's decision to rely on his Downing Street team of advisers in preference to Central Office exposed the most serious tensions. "Downing Street calls all the shots. It is a rival power base," said a supporter of Dr Mawhinney.

The growing tensions mirror the 1987 election campaign when Lord Young sought alternative advertising campaign advice without the knowledge of Lord Tebbit, then party chairman. "John Major is the Lord Young figure this time round," said a friend of Dr Mawhinney.

One Senior Tory official



Brian Mawhinney, left, and Lord Saatchi, who fell out over the Conservative's advertising campaign



added: "Everyone is very sensitive about the blame game. The chairman assumes it is the Majorities who are briefing against Central Office." Dr Mawhinney is particularly sensitive about criticism because of the affect it could have on his post-election future.

Central Office was brought into the discussions to put Europe at the centre of the campaign only an hour before the morning's press conference, on the economy, was due to begin. "We were bounced," said a source. Mr Major also decided in Downing Street to remake that night's election broadcast on Europe, defying Dr Mawhinney who tried to persuade him to revert to the original which focused on trusting Labour after positive

reports on the lunchtime news.

The next morning's press conference was again dominated by Europe when Mr Major revealed that he would give Tory MPs a free vote on a single currency. It was unscripted. He had not told Dr Mawhinney. "At that point it was obvious Central Office had lost control of the campaign to Major's men at Downing Street."

The predominately Eurosceptic camp at Central Office thought the only votes to be gained by putting Europe at the centre was if Mr Major ruled out a single currency, which was never going to happen. "The issue became Mr Major versus Mr Blair at the Amsterdam inter-govern-

mental conference. Most voters have never heard of the IGC. We just wasted days and days," said the source.

Dr Mawhinney, backed by Sir Tim Bell, another key adviser, David Willetts and Danny Finkelstein, who run the research department, wanted to hit Mr Blair hard and concentrate on "trust and the wallet". They were again overruled.

For Dr Mawhinney and his friends the campaign never got back on line. "Unemployment figures, good inflation figures, the country's recovery was lost in the din of Europe. Labour was no longer on the defensive and making up policy on the hoof. It was always going to make it hard then to turn around the opinion polls."

It was also confirmed that there have been disagreements between the party's advertising chief, Lord Saatchi, and Central Office. Tensions between Dr Mawhinney and Lord Saatchi arose before the campaign began when Lord Saatchi, objected to criticism, frequently clashed with Dr Mawhinney, and unfairly blamed Central Office for pulling some of his best advertisements, a Tory insider said.

Official Tory sources said talk of a serious rift was "overblown". "This is a grown-up campaign and occasionally you are going to get people disagreeing."

Blair initiates musical chairs for Cabinet table

TONY BLAIR's aides cast caution aside at the weekend by beginning, privately, to name members of his first Cabinet. The problem for political pundits desperate to know the make-up of the new government was that the sides left 18 gaps around the Cabinet table.

Four of Mr Blair's closest lieutenants can stand easy, confident of their leader's backing. Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, Robin Cook, Shadow Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, Shadow Home Secretary, and David Blunkett, Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, can book themselves into their matching government posts alongside Mr Blair.

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, has been assured of a "key post" by Mr Blair and is expected to continue the title of Deputy Prime Minister revived by Michael Heseltine. A role as "Superminister", co-ordinating environmental and transport policy, together with a regional development strategy that he has already set in train, looks likely.

Donald Dewar, currently the party's Chief Whip, has been touted for several pivotal roles. However, his record as a highly skilled parliamentary negotiator is likely to secure the post of Leader of the Commons, where he would steer through flagship legislation in the face of demolition tactics by the Tory Opposition.

That would allow Mr Blair to appoint a woman as Chief Whip, with Ann Taylor moving from the Shadow Leader of the Commons to the crucial non-Cabinet role.

Lord Irvine of Lairg, Shadow Lord Chancellor and a close confidant of Mr Blair, looks certain to take over the matching Government post, retaining his strong advisory role. Another essential Cabinet position, that of Leader of the Lords, looks set to go to Lord Richard, although Mr Blair has faced pressure to put Baroness Blackstone in post.

Although Harriet Harman, as Shadow Social Security Secretary, and Chris Smith, Shadow Health Secretary, have suffered from negative campaigning at the hands of Gordon Brown's spin doctors, a desire for continuity may keep them in post. Although

The race is on to name the 23 members of Tony Blair's first Cabinet. So far there are 18 empty places, writes Arthur Leathley

Margaret Beckett, a defeated Labour leadership candidate, looks set to have a prominent position in Cabinet, there are doubts over the composition of her Department of Trade and Industry. Jack Cunningham, the current Shadow National Heritage Secretary, is considered to have the charisma to become the high-profile "minister for fun".

Mr Prescott's cross-departmental brief is likely to prompt the end of a specific Transport Secretary position, offering Mr Blair the opportunity to move Andrew Smith

into a Defence Secretary role. Such a move leaves David Clark, the Shadow Defence Secretary, looking doomed to a non-Cabinet position.

The Environment Department also looks set to be stripped of much of its present power, leaving Frank Dobson without a role. He may prefer to let the junior Cabinet position on education go to a newcomer, such as Stephen Byers.

Question marks hang over the futures of Tom Clarke, the Shadow Disabled Rights Minister, and Clare Short, Shadow Overseas Development Minister, each of whose posts may be downgraded to non-Cabinet rank. The heads of the shadow Northern Ireland, Welsh and Scottish offices have prompted criticism within the party. However, the respective incumbents, Marjorie Mowlam, Ron Davies and George Robertson, may be spared the axe in the short term.

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Heseltine snaps over taunts that Major ducked TV

Jill Sherman watches the dutiful deputy fly into a rage

MICHAEL HESELTINE flew into a temper last night when members of a television studio audience accused John Major of being "chicken" for failing to appear on the programme and be cross-questioned by them.

The Prime Minister told London Weekend Television on Sunday morning that he would be unable to attend *ITV 500 - The People's Election* when each of the three party leaders was due to face 20 minutes of questions from a representative audience. It is the only peak-time television election programme where voters have a chance to challenge politicians directly.

Yesterday the Deputy Prime Minister, who took his place, worked himself up into a rage minutes after the programme got under way after a hostile audience taunted him over Mr Major's absence.

Sue Lawley introduced the programme by saying that it had been expected that the three leaders would be there, but John Major "let us know over the last few days that he would not be joining us".

The 500-strong audience booed softly during the introduction prompting an angry outburst from Mr Heseltine. "We cannot allow the fact that the Prime Minister has been in Northern Ireland and couldn't announce his programme because of security reasons to go by," he said.

But when one member of the audience shouted out "chicken" he lost his temper. "If you think that the Prime Minister going to Northern Ireland is 'chicken' you haven't the first idea what a brave and courageous man is all about," he snapped.

When Ms Lawley pointed out that he was visiting Northern Ireland yesterday morning, but that the programme was taking place in the after-

noon, he added tersely: "he was also visiting other parts of the United Kingdom. That is the big issue of the day."

Mr Heseltine then attacked the political leanings of the audience after facing a barrage of questions on poverty, low wages and grammar schools and how the Tories had managed to "con the country for the past 18 years". He argued that because the audience had been selected by the polling organisation MORI to represent a cross section of the public they were inherently hostile to the Conservatives.

"Let us not have any illusions," he said. "This audience is carefully selected to represent the political parties. That means, on any normal statistics, about two-thirds of this audience want either a Liberal or Labour candidate to win. It is an audience that is bound to give an anti-Government slant, and I hope everybody at home will understand that."

Mr Heseltine did little to try to win round his audience, who had been selected two months ago. He sparked further jeers when he told a nurse complaining about pay rises handed out to "fat cats" that average earnings were rising ahead of inflation. "It's no use shouting, if you don't like the truth, the fact is that average earnings are rising faster than inflation," he retorted angrily. "That's why living standards are rising, the housing market is booming, retail sales are rising - because people are better off."

Pressed on the tax rises brought in by the Tories after the last election, Mr Heseltine said there had been 25 tax reductions and he was proud that the Government had decided to raise taxes to protect essential public services during the recession.

Ms Lawley suggested that the nation's trust had been eroded by the tax rises. But to shouts of "rubbish" Mr Heseltine argued: "If we had cut essential public services at that time under the pressure of the recession, we wouldn't have deserved to be re-elected today. But we were not prepared to let the pensioners, the health service and the school kids suffer."

He got further heckling when he suggested that no one had to rely on the basic state pension. Asked if he could roanage on a state pension he said: "No old age pensioner has to manage on just the old age pension. There is council tax benefit, housing benefit... and, depending on their cir-

cumstances, a range of health service benefits."

Paddy Ashdown and Tony Blair were also given a rough ride when they had to take centre stage for 20 minutes, but neither was ruffled by the hostile questioning.

Mr Ashdown appeared to condone tactical voting when he said people who wanted the Tories out should vote for the party most likely to get them out. "Vote for what you believe in. Cast your vote for what you want. If your purpose is getting rid of this government, you vote to achieve that."

Mr Ashdown confirmed that he would not work with a Conservative government in a hung Parliament but he also gave a strong indication that he expected a clear Labour majority. A hung Parliament was "extremely unlikely to happen," he said.



Michael Heseltine: denied that John Major was being "chicken" by not appearing on programme

Labour takes wing with a vision of the future

TV WATCH

NICHOLAS WAPSHOTT

THE Tories tried to frighten voters early in the campaign with a piece of television fiction, speculating on what life might be like under Labour. Last night Labour returned the compliment. While the Tories showed a string of materialistic voters whining that they had been duped into voting Labour and were quickly worse off, Labour screened a featurette of life after a Tory victory.

A young father is too late to vote on Thursday because he has been waiting six hours in casualty while over-worked NHS staff treat his daughter's fractured arm. As he walks out of the hospital, it is pouring with rain. A cab pulls up and tells them to get in. Then the cabbie, played by Pete Postlethwaite, reveals that he has special insight into people's lives.

Life under the Tories would mean more crowded hospitals, larger school class sizes, perhaps VAT on food, unsafe streets. And as he drops them, waiving the fare, the father notices that the hands of the public clock is being turned back. There is still time to vote Labour.

Film buffs will enjoy the parallels. The plot is a lift from Frank Capra's *It's a Wonderful Life*, in which an angel shows a suicidal James Stewart the devastation created if he had never existed. The Labour cabbie has wings.

Labour's director was Stephen Frears, the master of English television films like *My Beautiful Laundrette* who made movies like *The Grifters* in the USA. The central assumption of the Labour film is, of course, riven with implausibilities. Whoever heard of an empty cab when it is pouring with rain? Who knows of a cabbie who will pass up a fare in any circumstances?

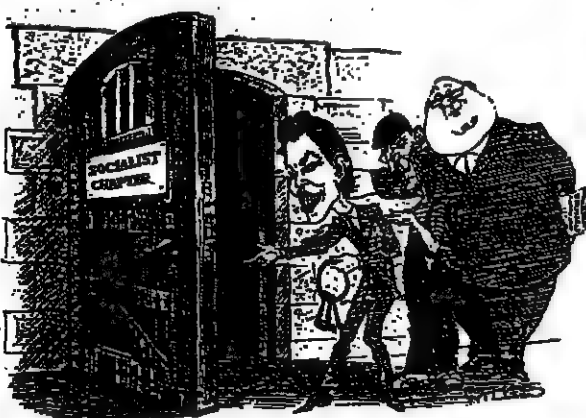
The skill of Frears, however, was to bridge the gap between his fantasy world and the real one. Although scenes were in soft focus and overlit as in a dream, the images were real - an

overcrowded hospital with patients lying in corridors; an overcrowded schoolroom, where children cannot concentrate; a high street where a child is scared by the anarchic behaviour of the children around her. Only when making the point about VAT on heating, where the girl opens her grandmother's cupboard to find it bare because VAT has been put on food, did this unlikely marriage of fact and the fabulous look absurd.

Labour have been winning the war of the election broadcasts. They have screened the bulldog Fitz, Molly Dineen's Blair documentary and last night's *Taxi Driver* - all well-made and well targeted. The Tory films have been weaker - the tree without roots perhaps the most ineffective - and were blown off-course as Mr Major scrapped the regular schedule to make a direct appeal to his party and the nation. All of which means very little, of course. Labour won the television propaganda wars in 1992 and 1987, too, but they lost the real elections.

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Mr. Ashland said that the 40% place during the 1970s.

This image shows a vertical strip of a document page, likely a scan of a microfilm or a heavily degraded document. The page is covered in dense, dark noise and artifacts, making the original text almost entirely illegible. Faint horizontal lines of text are visible, suggesting a structured layout such as a table or a list, but the specific content cannot be discerned. The right edge of the strip shows a dark, irregular border, possibly representing the edge of the film or the binding of the document.

National Weather Service
 1000 North 10th Street
 Anchorage, Alaska 99501
 19472 June 20 1997 10:00 AM

Paddy keeps his hair on in air raid on loose bits

BOARDING a Sikorski helicopter to accompany Paddy Ashdown on a whirlwind tour of Liberal Democrat target seats, we were handed the three items those facing a day with a party leader should never be without: ear-muffs, a sick-bag, and a map indicating the escape hatch.

"Hold on to your loose bits," shouted one of Mr Ashdown's aides, as we were ushered on to the tarmac at Battersea Helipoint in London, "or they'll blow away." The Liberal Democrats' airborne mission was to storm — in a morning — four Conservative constituencies with tiny majorities, and blow the Tories' loose bits away. From the window of the helicopter we watched Mr Ashdown's black Jaguar sweep up. In a moment the former Marine would be under that whirling rotor. A single question gripped on-lookers. Does he lacquer his hair? Our chopper would provide the ultimate test. Ashdown stepped from the limousine, adjusted his eyes to slit-mode for a day's gritty glad-handing, and walked beneath the blades.

The Times is pleased to announce that Mr Ashdown's hairspray passes the Sikorski Test. Not a loose strand: every ginger crinkle intact. The



Matthew Parris finds the Liberal Democrat leader unruffled by his party's low standing in the opinion polls during a whirlwind helicopter tour of Tory marginals

great and unruffled leader entered the helicopter and confronted twenty media folk for whom the mother of all bad hair days had just begun. "Hiyah! Howya doing?" he cried. And we were away. The Liberal Democrats can afford only one chopper — not for them the Labour helicopter formation team — so we were all together with him. But rotor noise was too loud for conversation and Ashdown had an hour to himself as we headed for his first target, Colchester. Canary Wharf, construction works on the new Jubilee Line, the new East London river crossing and the brightly painted, multicoloured liveries of privatised trains — testament to 18 years of Thatcherism — passed beneath. The Palace of Westminster looked very small.

At 11.15am we came down in parkland, near a road. Mar-

garet Thatcher was once reported to have stepped from a helicopter near Castle Donnington in the East Midlands, shot a bewildered glance at the surrounding cooling towers, and asked: "Where am I?"

Here, somewhere in East Anglia and for the first time, I sympathised. The Liberal Democrat candidate for Colchester, Bob Russell, and a handful of amazed townspeople stared as we climbed out. "Hiyah! Howya doing?" cried Ashdown. At the sports club some 200 supporters waited. Interestingly, they were a younger crowd than the other two leaders draw. He kept on to a wall and grabbed a microphone.

The helicopter's emergency instructions include action to be taken at the command "brace! brace!". The same command might helpfully be given before one of Mr Ashdown's harangues. Every-one waved orange placards and cheered. A former Marine who had quit the Labour Party was paraded like a prisoner of war. He attempted to tear up his Labour membership card for the cameras. It proved indestructible. We tore off back to the helicopter. Ashdown had spent 12 minutes in Colchester, but spent them well: he is an ace glad-hander.

An hour later we landed on a sports field somewhere near Eastbourne, where candidate Chris Berry was waiting. Ashdown alighted. "Hiyah! Howya doing?" Have you read about that "cargo cult" on a South Pacific island where the natives — whose folk



Essential kit: a safety instruction card, pair of ear protectors and paper sickbag

memory includes a Second World War emergency landing by a US freight aeroplane — have built ritual landing strips where they pray in preparation for a Second Landing? In a century's time, long after various helicopters, Tories, Labour and Liberal Democrats are forgotten, the natives of Essex and Sussex may be worshipping patches of grass. The same speech followed, after a lightning, placard-brandishing street-parade down Eastbourne's Terminus Road, bewildering scores of old ladies. Then it was the Sikorski. Then it was Lewes. If this was Lewes, that must be the candidate for Lewes, Norman Baker. "Hiyah! Howya doing?" Three hundred Liberal Democrats — good people, with nice faces — waited in a field. The same speech again.

One realised that the problem with helicopter-hopping is not that the politician bores his audience, which keeps changing. The problem is that he bores himself. A man on crutches was brought to be blessed, then a pregnant woman, then a toddler — and finally a dog. Paddy patted them all. "Hiyah! Howya doing?" To the Sikorski! Twickenham was next. His hair was perfect.

Labour advance brings Lib Dems mixed omens

IF THE Liberal Democrats are ever to achieve a breakthrough, their best chance is this Thursday. Past advances in general elections have been at a Tory defeat, as in 1964 and 1974: the sole exception has been 1983, when Labour came close to destroying itself, and the Liberal/SDP Alliance had success. The omens this time are mixed, because of Labour's strength.

Paddy Ashdown has concentrated on a limited number of target seats rather than attempting a broad national advance. The theory is that the party can win more seats for any given share of the national vote.

Since 1992, the Lib Dems have emerged as the second party of local government, and have built support in the South West. The 1994 polls for the European Parliament showed both the potential and the dangers of this approach: the party won two seats, and was robbed of a third by a maverick candidate. But it was prevented from winning more because many anti-Tory votes went to Labour.

The party faces the same dilemma now. Its strategists claim that its national opinion poll rating — up from 12.8 to nearly 15 per cent during the campaign — understates its strength in its target seats.

The Lib Dem case is that even if Labour is gaining in these seats, it is at the expense of the Tories, leaving them well-placed as the leading challenger. The risk is that Labour may also be gaining from the Lib Dems, splitting the opposition vote again and allowing some Tories to win on a much lower share of the vote. The pattern is mixed, according to constituency polls conducted by ICM for *The Observer*. In some places, Labour has moved up from third place to either create a three-way fight, as in Colchester, or to eclipse the Lib Dems, as in St Albans.

The Labour advance also threatens Lib Dem gains in its top target seats in the South West, such as Taunton and Bridgwater. However, the Lib Dems argue that there is scope to squeeze Labour on an appeal to people to vote tactically against the Tories. But warning against a Labour landslide risks frightening floating voters back to the Tories.

The resilient Mr Ashdown has fought a strong campaign, focusing on the party's costed plans on health, education and crime, though hardly mentioning constitutional reform. As



PETER RIDDELL

Labour has played safe, the Lib Dems have claimed they are being more candid on spending and tax. This would not work for one of the main contenders, but has helped prevent the Lib Dems being squeezed out of the picture.

My hunch is that the Lib Dems will win more seats overall, despite losing some through retirements and boundary changes. Some will be in the West Country, and the Lib Dems are also hopeful of gains at Oxford West and Abingdon, Southport and Hazel Grove. The risk for Mr Ashdown remains that, despite a modest advance, the party will be left on the sidelines by a big Labour win. Much will then depend on whether Tony Blair fulfils his promise of creating a non-tribal style of centre-left politics by reaching out to the Lib Dems.

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Clarke and Brown leave room to raise funds

TAX policy has been the dog that did not bark in this election campaign. However, the public's apparent indifference has been understandable. After seeing what happened to John Major's 1992 pledge of tax cuts "year after year", the voters have regarded all statements on taxes with suspicion.

Tony Blair's strategy, therefore, was to try to neutralise tax as a political factor and fight the election on other issues. However, given the strength of consumer spending and the damage done to exporters and manufacturers by the overvalued pound, substantial tax increases now look very likely whichever party is elected.

While the election may not have done much to restrain the Government's appetite for additional revenues, it has put down clear markers on how this money may and may not be raised. While the

THE POLITICS

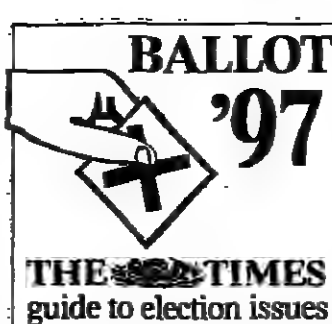
Liberal Democrats have boldly called for an increase of 1 per cent in the standard rate of income tax — from 23 to 24 per cent — to fund additional spending on education. Labour and the Conservatives have firmly ruled out any increase in the standard or the top rate of tax.

Labour has also promised that it will not increase the 17.5 per cent rate of VAT, nor extend VAT to food, newspapers, public transport and children's clothes. In addition, Labour will cut the VAT rate on domestic fuel and heating from 8 to 5 per cent. These are electoral pledges that voters can firmly rely on — they will not be broken, short of a war or some unpredictable calamity. The promises will never need to be broken because both Gordon Brown and Kenneth

Clarke have been extremely careful to leave themselves with plenty of leeway to raise additional funds without venturing into the forbidden territories defined by their campaign promises.

By confining their promises on income tax rates, both parties have deliberately left open the possibility of raising more taxes by changing personal allowances, altering tax bands or reducing special reliefs for mortgage interest, pensions and personal equity plans. More importantly, they have left untouched the vast swath of taxes levied on company profits, motoring, energy, alcohol, tobacco, insurance and so on.

The £73 billion raised in income tax accounts for only 24 per cent of total government revenues, while VAT accounts for 17 per cent. Thus even if changes in these two types of tax were ruled completely out of



20: Taxation

bounds, there would be plenty of scope to raise additional revenues. What, then, might the two major parties do — and not do? On indirect taxes, the Tories have been slightly less specific than Labour, saying only that they have no plans and no need to extend or increase

VAT. Labour has said it would not extend VAT to private education but this promise does not seem to have quite the same definitive status as the promises on food and so on. Outside the VAT net, there are plenty of plans for higher indirect taxes. In fact, taxes on petrol and tobacco are scheduled to rise by 5 per cent in real terms each year under the plans already put forward in successive Tory Budgets. Labour could well accelerate this rate of increase, citing environmental and health concerns, but raising a lot of extra revenue in the process.

On income tax, the Tories have announced two major objectives: to reduce the standard rate of income tax from 23 to 20 per cent and to allow married couples with children and one non-working spouse to take advantage of two personal allowances instead of one. John

Major has said that this new marriage relief would take priority over the general reduction in income tax. The relatively few eligible families would gain about £800 annually from this new relief.

Labour also has a "long-term objective" to reduce income tax, but its way of doing this is very different from the Tories. Instead of cutting the standard rate, Labour would introduce a 10 per cent tax band at the bottom of the income scale. This would be most beneficial to people on average and low earnings, while the gains from the Tory approach would go predominantly to those at the top of the income scale (see chart below).

Looking beyond income tax and VAT, the possibilities for tax changes are legion — and none of the parties has given any real indication of what it may or may not do. Probably the most sensitive

area is the National Insurance system. However, an increase in National Insurance rates seems unlikely since it would be instantly identified as a devious way of breaking Mr Blair's cash-for-promises-on-income-tax.

More likely areas for major reform are the taxation of savings and corporate profits. Labour has already promised a windfall tax on the excess profits of the privatised utilities. If the Treasury wants to raise extra money — and almost all economists are united in believing it will — the obvious places to look will be mortgage tax relief, insurance taxation and tax credits on dividends received by pension funds and personal equity plans. Reforms in these obscure corners of the tax system could raise many billions without breaking any electoral promises — and action is likely whichever party wins.

Tory reform has had little impact on salary slips

IF THERE is one thing that the numerous warring factions of the Conservative Party have in common, it is faith in the lowest possible level of taxes. It must come as a bitter disappointment, therefore, that after 18 years of Tory rule, Britain's total tax burden is considerably higher than it was in the final year of the last Labour government — 36.25 per cent of gross domestic product in the Budget for 1997-98 compared with 34.25 per cent in 1978-79.

This increase in total taxes has not gone to pay for public services. Total government spending has fallen quite sharply, from 44 per cent of GDP in 1978-79 to a planned 40.5 per cent in the current financial year — a cut in public spending equivalent to about £24.5 billion, or half the total cost of the National Health Service. Where then has all the extra tax revenue gone? Most has been used to reduce the dangerously high deficits bequeathed to the Tories by the last Labour government — public borrowing has fallen from 5.5 per cent of GDP to 2.5 per cent of GDP, a reduction almost equal to the cut in total public spending. However, a major part of the extra tax revenue has had to be used to

fill the hole left in successive Tory governments' finances by the privatisation of extremely profitable nationalised industries.

These privatisations unquestionably increased the efficiency of some of Britain's most important industries, promoted economic growth and thus indirectly channelled money to the Exchequer. In addition, the profits of the former nationalised industries have been subject to corporation tax. Nevertheless, the direct effect on the public accounts has been sharply

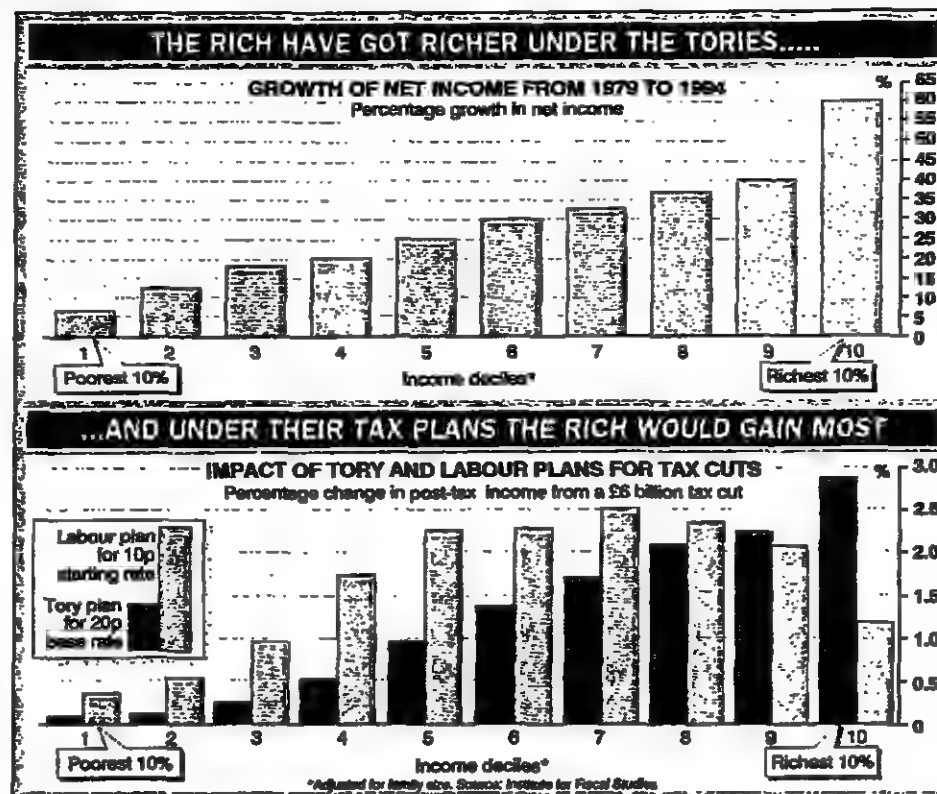
THE RECORD

negative: the Treasury's non-tax income has fallen from 4.5 per cent of GDP in 1978-79 to a planned 1.75 per cent of GDP in 1997-98. This reduction in non-tax revenue, equivalent to almost £20 billion a year in today's money, has been roughly equal to the increase in the total burden of tax. It could be argued that the income lost from "selling the family silver" has been almost equal to the increase in total taxes under the Tories.

A related charge against the Tories is that they have squandered tax revenues from

North Sea oil. This is, at most, half true. Government revenues from the North Sea today are down to less than £2 billion — very similar to the level in 1978-79. But when oil prices peaked in the mid-1980s, North Sea oil was yielding revenues of more than £12 billion. This money was used partly to finance the tax cuts of the Lawson period and partly to repay the national debt. The tax cuts financed in this way were bound to prove unsustainable. The reduction in national debt should have been a lasting and worthwhile achievement. Sadly, it was frittered away by the economic mismanagement during Britain's time in the ERM.

Despite their mixed record on the overall burden, the Tories have managed to deliver big reductions in certain taxes. Most notably, the top rate of income tax was reduced from 55p in the pound under Denis Healey to 40p immediately after the 1979 election and then to 40p in 1988. The standard rate of tax was cut from 33p to 25p under Margaret Thatcher and then trimmed to 23p under John Major. Inheritance tax has also fallen, although it has not been abolished, as Mr Major has repeatedly suggested it



would. Curiously, the Tories have actually increased the burden of the two taxes that entrepreneurs and small businessmen most dislike — capital gains and business rates.

Despite these provisions, nobody can deny that the reduction in Britain's punitive income tax rates has been a genuine, and probably irreversible, achievement. But even on this central point at least three caveats must be attached. Most obviously, the money the Treasury gave up through income tax reductions was taken back by raising indirect taxes. VAT was almost doubled from 8 to 15 per cent immediately after the

1979 election to finance the first big reductions in standard and higher rates of tax. VAT was then raised to 17.5 per cent in 1991 to finance the replacement of the hated poll tax by the council tax.

The second caveat is that the actual deductions from most workers' pay packets have not changed by remotely as much as might be suggested by the headline cuts in rates. This is because successive Tory Chancellors have whittled away the numerous allowances — especially mortgage tax relief and marriage allowances — that used to be available against taxes and have lowered the starting levels at which both the standard and the top rates of income taxes are paid. In addition, there has been a big increase in the employee's National Insurance contribution, from 5.75 per cent in 1978-79 to 10 per cent today. This alone has offset roughly half the reduction in the standard rate of income tax since 1979. (The employee's National Insurance contribution, which most economists regard as a payment of income tax on behalf of the employees, has gone up even more sharply.)

Thus the net result under the Tories has been not so much to reduce the burden of income tax as to alter the way that it is raised.

This leads to perhaps the most serious objection to the Tory income tax record. The

main effect of all the changes was to redistribute income tax from one group of taxpayers to another and the main losers have been the people who could arguably least afford extra taxes: families on low to middle incomes, especially those with only one breadwinner. For example, a married couple with one working spouse on average earnings, a mortgage and two children, paid 12 per cent of their income in taxes and National Insurance in 1978-79. A similar family is now paying more than 20 per cent. The gains from the Tory period have broadly been families with two full-time workers and the relatively rich. A family with two workers and a total income of three times average earnings, for example, would have paid 32 per cent of its income in tax and National Insurance in 1978-79. Today that would be down to about 27 per cent.

In sum, then, the changes in the tax system have contributed to the dramatic widening in Britain's distribution of income illustrated in the top chart. Most economists would argue, nevertheless, that everyone has benefited indirectly from a less penal tax system that has promoted economic efficiency, discouraged tax avoidance and sharpened economic incentives. But this may not be persuasive to voters who do not see the extra money on their salary slip.

THE POLITICIANS

KENNETH CLARKE, Age: 56

Education: Nottingham High School, Cambridge (BA in law and LLB), Gray's Inn.

Experience: seven years as barrister in the Midlands, combined with work for Conservative Party and Bow Group. Elected 1970: swiftly promoted through whips' office to junior minister under Heath. In Cabinet since 1985, Chancellor since 1993.

Politics: passionate pro-European, one-nation Tory, fearless political bruiser with strong social conscience. Believes Treasury best serves the poor by maintaining strong growth and low inflation, not by redistributing income.

GORDON BROWN, Age: 46

Education: Kirkcaldy High School, Edinburgh University (PhD in history).

Experience: academic and later a television journalist. Senior shadow economic posts since 1987, Shadow Chancellor since 1992.

Politics: convinced that Labour lost the last election because of its demand for higher taxes, especially on "aspirational" who thought they might earn more in future than be clobbered by high tax. Opponent of old Labour class struggles, but has read his Engels and Marx. Believes that greater equality can be achieved by offering opportunity to all, rather than by redistribution by taxation.

WHAT THEY SAID

In the next Parliament we'll go tax cutting. We will make that our aim year by year. I want to extend the 20p tax band further and further up the income scale. More tax cuts for all. That's how you provide benefits for all. That is our basic Conservative belief.

John Major, April 1992

We have no plans and no need to increase the impact of VAT.

John Major, March 1992

We exempt far too many goods and services from VAT in this country.

Kenneth Clarke, letter to a constituent, 1993

We hurt people and they remember those promises

and they remember the taxes ... this time they are looking out of the side of their eyes, is this for real?

Kenneth Clarke, May 1996

There will be no increase in the basic or top rates of income tax.

Labour manifesto

My tax-cutting ambition is to lower the starting rate of tax to 15p or even 10p.

Gordon Brown, September 1996

Gordon can say anything he likes if he thinks it is going to win the election. When Labour is in power they will be looking for other priorities apart from tax cuts.

Diane Abbott, November 1995

THE FACTS

□ A married couple with one breadwinner on average earnings (£21,316) in 1996-97 paid 21.4 per cent of income in direct taxes. A similar couple would have paid 20.5 per cent in 1991-92 and 20.9 per cent in 1978-79.

□ A single person on average earnings (£21,316) in 1996-97 paid 27.6 per cent in direct taxes. A similar person would have paid 28.1 per cent in 1991-92 and 31.5 per cent in 1978-79.

□ Taking account of changes in VAT and other indirect taxes, the total effects of all tax and benefit changes between 1992 and 1997 have been negative for everyone, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

□ North Sea oil now produces less than £2 billion a year in revenues. Revenues peaked at £12.03 billion in 1984-85.

□ Income tax now yields 24 per cent of total tax revenues, compared with 23 per cent in 1978-79. In the same period the share of VAT has risen from 7.8 per cent to 16.9 per cent.

□ Tobacco and alcohol duties have fallen from 7.2 per cent of all taxes in 1978-79 to 4.8 per cent in 1997-98.

□ In 1995, Britain's tax receipts as a share of GDP were the lowest in Europe, but at 37.6 per cent they were higher than Japan (32.1 per cent) and the US (31.3 per cent).

CONSERVATIVES

Income tax: cut standard rate from 23p to 20p when resources allow. Introduce transferable personal allowances for married couples with children and non-working spouse. This new marriage allowance will take priority over reductions in standard rate.

Tax allowances: no specific commitments have been made on mortgage relief, suggesting that it could continue to be whittled away as it has been since 1979.

Capital gains: long-term aspiration to abolish capital gains tax and inheritance tax but no progress towards either goal. Both take lower priority than income-tax cuts and new marriage relief. Given pressure on public finances, not much hope of progress in next Parliament.

VAT: no plans to raise or extend, but no absolute promises.

Corporation tax: no windfall tax, but changes in advance corporation tax as likely as under Labour. Norman Lamont and Kenneth Clarke have already taken a bite, and Treasury appetite seems to be growing.

LABOUR

Income tax: no increase in tax rates. Long-term intention to introduce 10 per cent band for those on lower incomes. National Insurance unlikely to be raised, but no manifesto promise.

VAT: firm promises of cut on domestic fuel, no increase in general rate, and no extension to food, books, newspapers, public transport and children's clothes. Indications that VAT will not be extended to private school fees, but no manifesto promise.

Corporation tax: windfall tax of £5 billion to £10 billion on privatised utilities. Changes in advance corporation tax widely rumoured, but not confirmed.

Capital gains: Labour will consider a lower rate of capital gains for long-term investments, but this is not promised as a commitment.

Tax allowances: no specific commitments, meaning that mortgage relief could be reduced further. Labour rejects the Conservative idea of providing special allowances for married couples with children.

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Income tax: increase the standard rate from 23 to 24 per cent to finance an extra £2 billion a year in education spending. Top rate increased from 40 to 50 per cent. Personal allowance raised by £200 to take 500,000 poorer people out of the income-tax net. Liberal Democrats believe that the better-off are prepared to pay higher taxes if they know where the money is going. National Audit Office to prepare annual report, certifying that the extra penny on tax is not diverted from education and is being efficiently spent.

VAT: cut on energy conservation materials to 3 per cent.

Motoring and energy taxes: higher fuel duties, offset by reduction in vehicle excise duty for small-engined cars. Other energy and pollution taxes likely. Manifesto commitment to "begin a long-term shift in taxation, reducing taxes on jobs, wealth and goods and shifting them to pollution and resource depletion".

Tobacco duties: extra 5p per packet, earmarked to pay for additional health spending.

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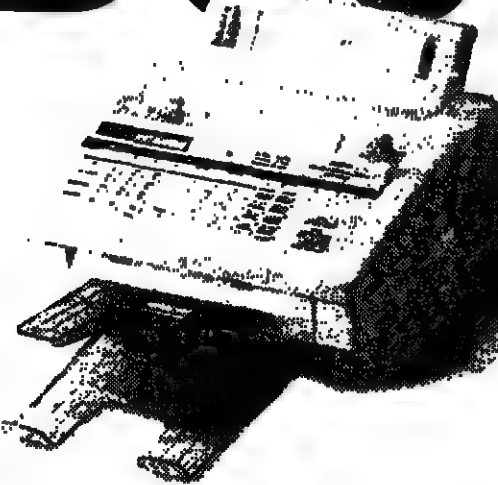
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INSIDE SECTION

2 TODAY

BUSINESS EDITOR

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Christine Borland
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candidates: has the
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY APRIL 29 1997

Windfalls credited for boosting consumer confidence

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE "feel-good" factor has hit a ten-year high but consumers are credit-building society windfall payments rather than the Government for the surge in confidence, a new survey finds today.

Business Strategies, whose director Bridget Rosewall is one of the Chancellor's panel of independent

economic advisers, says that its consumer survey shows the highest levels of consumer confidence in the UK since 1987.

Its overall consumer confidence index shows a net balance of 24 per cent of consumers optimistic about the next 12 months. The index shows that optimism has now risen in seven out of the last eight quarters — the longest sustained increase in confidence since the mid-1980s.

But it suggests that the principal reason behind the surge is windfall payments from the flotation and conversion of a number of building societies and insurance companies, which will see consumers reap a £21 billion windfall.

David Fell, a director at Business Strategies, says: "The 'feel-good' factor is being put down to the windfall gains and consumers are not seeing the Government as being

responsible for these windfall gains. Consumers are very cynical in that they see this as nothing to do with the Government."

Business Strategies says that other factors which have led to an acceleration in confidence among consumers include falling unemployment and tax cuts. The positive benefit of these changes is outweighing consumer fears about increases in inflation and

interest rates and the outcome of this week's general election. Its economists say that their evidence shows the economy to be doing better than at any time since the 1980s boom, but they insist that this is not an "unsustainable boom to be followed by a calamitous bust".

The survey suggests that consumers are still concerned about the outlook for housing, employment security and the impact of windfall

gains and "still have their feet on the brake pedal". However, the consultancy is forecasting a rise in interest rates by the end of this year by a full percentage point to 7 per cent, though it refuses to endorse suggestions from organisations such as the CBI and the British Chambers of Commerce that an incoming government should consider raising taxes as well as examining further rate rises.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	4,388.7	(+20.0)
Yield	3.69%	
FTSE All share	2,116.22	(+6.47)
Nikkei	18,679.37	(+57.51)
New York		
Dow Jones	6,771.39	(+32.51)
S&P Composite	772.05	(+6.71)

US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	5 1/2%	(5 1/2%)
Yield	7.14%	(7.14%)

LONDON MONEY		
3-month interbank	6 1/8%	(6 1/8%)
Life long go	100%	(100%)
Yield	100%	(100%)

STERLING		
New York	1.6238*	(1.6234)
London	1.6234	(1.6231)
DM	2.2040	(2.2044)
FF	1.4859	(1.4859)
SFR	2.3863	(2.3860)
Yen	205.48	(204.64)
£ Index	99.9	(99.7)

US\$ DOLLAR		
London	1.7288*	(1.7275)
DM	6.5255*	(6.5312)
FF	4.8399	(4.8399)
Yen	126.70*	(126.25)
£ Index	106.2	(106.0)

TOKYO CLOSING		
15-day (Jul)	818.35	(818.35)
30-day	818.35	(818.35)
London close	8340.06	(8342.55)

NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Jul)	818.35	(818.35)
30-day	818.35	(818.35)
London close	8340.06	(8342.55)

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Sears to detail Strong exit and sell-off

By PATIENCE WHEATCROFT
CITY EDITOR

SEARS is to demerge its Selfridges department store business. The plan will be revealed this morning, along with details of the long-rumoured departure of Liam Strong, chief executive. There is also likely to be news of the appointment of an outsider to help Sears to extricate itself from its shoe retailing operations.

Mr Strong will leave the group in June. Speculation over his future has been rampant as details of the group's dismal performance has leaked out. Today Sir Bob Reid, chairman, will report that profits for the year to January have sunk from £100 million to less than £80 million. The major problem is the shoe business, but Freemans, the mail order company, is also significantly down.

The new Sears strategy is not as radical as some City pundits had hoped. While Selfridges is to be demerged, the group will not make an immediate exit from its loss-making shoe chains. Instead, it is likely to bring in a company doctor to preside over the exit at the least possible cost to the company.

The company will argue that with this structure in place, there will no longer be a need for a chief executive at the centre. Prospects of a £500,000 payoff to Mr Strong, who is on a two-year contract, are likely to arouse criticism from shareholders who have seen the value of their investments tumble under his reign.

There could be further disappointment to come, since pulling out of shoes will bring heavy write-offs. They will not be taken with the 1996-97 accounts, and the company will hope that by avoiding a hasty closure the outcome can be better than the £300 million costs that one analyst has predicted.

Today will bring confirmation that Sears is pressing ahead with the sale of Freemans to Littlewoods, but at a significantly lower price than the £395 million previously agreed. This may leave the way open for another bidder to come in. N Brown is said to be still interested in Freemans.

City firms apologise for role in failed Regan bid

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

TWO leading City institutions yesterday made unprecedented apologies to the Co-operative Wholesale Society over their role in Andrew Regan's abortive takeover attempt.

Hambros, the merchant bank, and Travers Smith Braithwaite, the solicitors, settled out of court with the CWS, issuing unreserved apologies and agreeing to pay damages believed to exceed £1 million.

Hambros, after consulting the Securities and Futures Authority and the Bank of England, appointed Norton Rose, the solicitors, to conduct an inquiry.

The CWS is continuing to pursue its legal action and claims for damages against Mr Regan, 31, his business partner David Lyons, their companies Lanica Trust and Galileo, and Allan Green, the former CWS executive who has admitted to giving them numerous commercially sensitive documents. No further out-of-court settlements are expected.

Both Hambros and Travers Smith Braithwaite resigned yesterday as advisers to Lanica and Galileo. An increasingly isolated Mr Regan also lost the services of Lowe Bell, the public relations firm headed by Sir Tim Bell.

Peter Large and Andrew Salmon, the two Hambros corporate finance directors who acted for Mr Regan, are continuing to work for the bank, a spokesman said.

In a separate development, Ronald Zimet, the Anglo-Israeli businessman at the centre of a mysterious payment made during an earlier deal between CWS and Mr Regan's companies, resigned yesterday as chairman of the AIM-listed Freepages.

Mr Zimet, who is believed to be in The Netherlands, has declined to comment on the role he played in arranging the extension of a contract between CWS and Hobson, a food company owned by Mr



Ronald Zimet, right, with Robert Bonnier and Nigel Robertson promotes Freepages in 1996

Regan, for which he was paid £24 million through a British Virgin Islands company, Trellis International. CWS has asked the Serious Fraud Office to investigate the payment.

The resignation from Freepages severs Mr Zimet's only known connection with British business. A spokesman for Freepages said Mr Zimet was worried the publicity surrounding him was hitting the company's share price.

In his letter to Graham Melmoth, chief executive of CWS, Sir Chips Keswick, chairman of Hambros Bank, wrote: "Regrettably, I have to say that it is quite clear to me the judgment exercised in Hambros proceeding in the way that it did fell below our standards and those which you were entitled to expect from us. The purpose of this letter is to offer my personal, and the bank's, unreserved apology and to assure you that

we are taking the appropriate action to ensure that this will not happen again."

Alan Keat, the senior partner of Travers Smith Braithwaite, wrote to Mr Melmoth: "We regret that we were recipients of documents confidential to CWS and accept that our conduct did not accord with the standards which we set ourselves."

Pennington, page 31
City Diary, page 33

Halifax to warn members of float dangers

By ANNE ASHWORTH

THE Halifax will this week warn customers of the dangers of bypassing its free share-dealing service in the hope of making a larger profit.

It now seems likely that a higher than expected proportion of the £12 billion flotation may request share certificates in order to sell through stockbrokers. It is feared that this could imperil the smooth running of the Halifax's stock market debut on June 2.

The Halifax dealing service was set up for those who wished swiftly to sell their holdings. However, members may be discouraged by results of the first week of trading in Alliance & Leicester shares. Some 27 per cent of A&L customers decided to sell, and those using A&L's dealing service pocketed £1,334, while those using other brokers received as much as £1,405.

If a similar proportion of Halifax customers opt to take the money, two million people would be trying to deal at about the same time. It is feared that this would put private client stockbrokers under unbearable strain. Concern has been expressed over the ability of Crest, the already overstretched new system for share deals, to cope with this year's £22 billion building society share bonanza. Extra requests for share certificates would further increase pressure.

The Halifax yesterday pointed out that customers opting for share certificates and disposing of their holdings through other stockbrokers would not be covered by the "floor" price of 415p announced yesterday. This floor price will apply only to those selling through the Halifax dealing service on June 2, or in the first auction to institutional investors, on May 30.

Analysts say the Halifax price may range from 450p to 500p.

BSM takes a wrong turning over tests

By FRANK NELSON

SHARES of BSM skidded by 27 per cent yesterday after the driving school company blamed the new written driving tests and severe January weather for a reverse in profits.

BSM said students were staying at home until they had passed the written test, leading to a 54 per cent drop in applications for the practical test.

To adapt to the reduced levels of demand, the company is closing 18 of

its 154 branches as part of a plan to save £1 million a year — a reversal of the expansion drive put into action four years ago. It will end the restructuring with almost the same number of centres it had in 1993.

Richard Glover, the chief executive, said that the market had not shrunk, but was going through a temporary reduction which would correct itself later in the year.

He said: "We misread the extent to which people would decide to get the

test out of the way before starting the practical course. Our share of the market has risen, but after this artificial barrier, the market as a whole has gone down. We are still sure the market will bounce back, but there's no indication of that happening yet."

He added that outlets being closed were in mostly in the areas where additional new ones had opened, allowing tuition to carry on without disruption. Also, he said applications for provisional licences — the main

indicator of the pool of learner drivers — had only fallen by 15 per cent.

The company does not profit from the theory test, which is being conducted by Capita, the services group, but can only make money from selling its range of study aids.

The company's shares, which have been steadily falling from 200p since September, dropped a further 38p to a new low of 103 1/2p yesterday.



Glover: misread signs

Times, page 32

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JOHN DOE.

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□ Merchant bank that helped CWS raiders may pay high price □ Abell makes Panel look silly □ Investors rush to beat Labour

Hambros cops the Co-op rap

THE apology by Hambros to the CWS could not have been more fulsome. It will not, however, do anything to restore the damage done to the bank by its involvement in the extraordinary fiasco precipitated by the ambitions of Andrew Regan.

Neither will the stable-door closing exercise of bringing in solicitors Norton Rose to investigate the bank's role in the proceedings. Their findings may point the finger at those individuals who were guilty of misconduct, but those names have already been put in the frame by the righteously indignant Graham Melmoth and his CWS colleagues.

Blame cannot be confined to those at Hambros, led by Peter Large, who were in the front line of the bid. The bank's top management is guilty of the second worst sin in merchant banking. The first is to lose a lot of money; only slightly less dreadful, but potentially more damaging in the long term, is to display lack of judgment. That is just what Hambros has done. There were enough doubts in the City about the credentials of Mr Regan and his entourage for top brass at the bank to be wary of joining his gang. The decision to do so would not have been taken without the knowledge, and approval, of the bank's bosses. Having taken that dubious decision, they should have been watching for the first

signs of anything going awry, and have been ready to order a rapid, face-saving, exit.

Yesterday's mood of *mea culpa* comes too late. It will only add ammunition to those who believe that Hambros needs a drastic shake-up. Last year Hong Kong-based Jim Mellon bought a 3 per cent stake in the business and started calling for change. His Regent Pacific investment business glories in being dubbed a vulture fund. That should have given the board a sign that they might have to alter their comfortable existence if they were to survive. Instead, they rejected Mr Mellon's break-up proposals.

Now they may have to consider them again, for its latest indiscretions make Hambros look extremely vulnerable. For a start, it may like to rethink the decision to replace the plans for effectively crowning Sir Chips Keswick as both chairman and chief executive this summer. When Lord Hambro retires, Sir Chips, now chief executive of the group will succeed him and his own role will vanish.

Hambros was a once great

City name, but now makes more money out of estate agency than merchant banking. Little more than a decade ago, it was in the same league as Schroders, but astute management has seen the latter soar in stature, and profits, while Hambros has dwindled. Hambros itself needs new blood and new ideas, but not from the likes of Andrew Regan. Deputy chairman Christopher Spörborg recently revealed: "My motto in all things has always been to expect the worst and hope for the best." In the Co-op affair, Hambros should have expected the worst, and now seems likely to experience just that.

A very private concert party

FOR more than 30 years a collection of merchant bankers and lawyers, known as the Takeover Panel, has practised its dictatorship over one aspect of the City's activities. It is not perfect, but by comparison with most efforts at self-regulation, it does not do badly. The executive will make a decision and if



principals do not like it, they can appeal to the full Panel. And if the full Panel's decision is unwelcome, that is tough.

There have been questionable decisions. Ask employees of Northern Electric, which was delivered into the hands of American raiders when the Panel extended the bid after an indiscretion by Barclays de Zoete Wedd. Its latest ruling on Thomas Jourdan defies belief.

The Panel has decided that David Abell, the former head of Suter, was not in a concert party with his former financial advisor, Roger Devlin, and the Crutch family when they built up a combined 39 per cent stake in Jourdan, maker of the Corby trouser press. If Abell, Devlin

and Crutch had been in a concert party, then the Panel would have forced them to make a bid.

The Panel has now ruled that, as Devlin and co have recently decided to support Abell's attempts to be appointed to Jourdan's board, they are now in a concert party with Abell. This means Abell, who the Department of Trade and Industry once found not guilty of organising illegal concert parties, is not allowed to buy any more shares.

He does not need to do so. At the extraordinary general meeting next month, it would take an almost unheard of combined effort by other shareholders to block the way for Abell and his friends. The reason why the Panel makes the bidding threshold 29.9 per cent is that anything above that gives effective control if shares are widely held.

The Panel clearly has made a mistake. In this case it can do nothing about it. But it should change its rules so that if shareholders combine to form a concert party after taking their stake above 29.9 per cent, they have to make a bid at the price at which they most recently bought

shares. This would stop the sort of back door takeover which Abell is almost certain to perform at Jourdan.

Trust stampede shows distrust

DO VOTERS believe Labour's Tory lookalike policies? Judging from that usually reliable indicator, the feet vote, legions of small investors do not.

Conveniently, the election was called just before the end of the financial year. This set off a stampede to buy personal equity plans while stocks lasted. On paper, Labour is pledged to keep Peps. Investors took no chances.

In the last five days of the old fiscal year, investors bought a net £800 million of unit-linked Peps alone, according to the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds: more than an eighth of the year's sales. As many are addicted to last-minute Pep-buying as to buying presents on Christmas Eve. But this year's election-beating five-day Pep rush was comfortably more than double the £366 million in April

1996, itself by a long way the previous record. In the wake of that self-generated rush, customers are being encouraged to take up their 1997-98 Peps before a Gordon Brown Budget.

Investors were hardly chasing a UK boom. The Bank of England had no need to tell them they could lose their shirts, as the US Federal Reserve plans to do. Most pundits forecast 1997 to be poor for shares. By the start of April they had fallen 5 per cent from a March 11 peak. Significantly, sales of European funds jumped 150 per cent in spite of the Morgan Grenfell affair.

Evidently, investors fear that the unspecified "improvements" that Labour promises for Peps will prove another case of better means worse.

Euro riddle

PUZZLE: the International Monetary Fund, scourge of budget deficits and fan of strong currencies, has just forecast that none of the top five EU economies will meet the Maastricht budgetary test for membership of a single currency. Yet IMF officials repeatedly emphasise that starting the euro on time is vital "to end uncertainty". Explanation: Michel Camdessus, suitably reluctant French candidate to head the European Central Bank, is IMF Secretary-General.

Spending worries hit shares in Chiro

By PAUL DURMAN

SHARES in Chiroscience, one of the UK's largest biotechnology companies, lost nearly 5 per cent of their value yesterday in the face of an upbeat annual results statement.

While Chiroscience reported "excellent progress" with its local anaesthetic, its molecule manufacturing business and its recent acquisition of Darwin Molecular of Seattle, the City focused instead on the level of ongoing spending. Its shares fell 17p to 335p.

Spending on research and development increased by 84 per cent to £22.2 million in the year to February 28, pushing losses up from £11.6 million to £18.7 million. These figures were higher than most analysts had forecast.

One reason was the level of spending on levobupivacaine, the local anaesthetic which Chiroscience believes has the potential to hit sales of \$1 billion a year. Levobupivacaine is an improved version of an existing Astra drug, which sometimes causes convulsions or heart problems. The Chiroscience drug is now

in extensive phase 3 trials, and the company hopes to file to register the product at the end of this year.

John Padfield, Chiroscience's chief executive, said levobupivacaine has a wide range of possible uses, including relief of post-operative pain and in eye surgery.

Dr Padfield said the acquisition of Darwin had already given Chiroscience important insights into the behaviour of its matrix metalloproteinase (MMP) inhibitors, a class of arthritis and cancer drugs. Chiroscience hopes to produce a cancer drug with fewer side effects than marimastat, British Biotech's highly rated MMP inhibitor. Chiroscience intends to give a full scientific update on this and other projects at the end of May.

ChiroTech, the group's business that makes single isomer compounds for other drug companies, made its first profit of £1.2 million, improving from a £900,000 loss in the previous year. Sales rose strongly from £3.4 million to £9.2 million, helped by one of its customer entering phase 3 trials on one of its drugs.

This was the first time Chiroscience had split out ChiroTech's results separately. British Biotech and Celtech both eventually sold their third-party manufacturing businesses, and Dr Padfield hinted that Chiroscience may eventually make a similar move. Chiroscience said the Stevenage plant manufacturing plant that it bought last year was already demonstrating value in producing material for clinical trials.



Padfield: hinted at sale

City Diary, page 33



Tony Hill, managing director of Surrey Free Inns, left, with Gerald Richardson yesterday

Pub chain sold for £11m

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

GERALD and Ann Richardson will collect about £4 million after selling their pub chain to Surrey Free Inns for £11.35 million yesterday.

The Richardsons own one third of Richardson Inns, which operates eight pubs, including a series of large cafés in the City of London and For Your Eyes Only, the UK's largest table-dancing venue.

The remainder of the company is controlled by Whitbread, which also owns a

4.5 per cent stake in Surrey Free Inns. Mr Richardson will join the board of Surrey Free Inns as an executive director and will invest £1 million in its shares.

Surrey Free Inns, which now operates 35 sites, said the purchase would improve operating efficiencies and buying power. It predicted that the acquisition would be earnings enhancing, adding about £1.5 million in profits in the first full year. Surrey is fund-

ing the purchase with a £12 million rights issue, offering one new share for every eight existing shares at 420p.

The company added that it will review the position of For Your Eyes Only with a view to selling the premises. Surrey made profits of £1.56 million on the 36 weeks to February 9. Shares in the AIM-listed company, which intends to transfer to the main market in the autumn, closed unchanged at 450p.

MGM in \$573m library purchase

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN NEW JERSEY

MGM, the Hollywood studio, is buying Metromedia International's entertainment group and film library for \$573 million. The deal will add *Dances With Wolves* and *The Silence of the Lambs* to MGM's library, which includes *Midnight Cowboy* and the James Bond series.

The transaction involves Metromedia's 2,200-title film and television library and the production and distribution activities of its entertainment group, including Orion Pictures Corp, Goldwyn Entertainment Co and Motion Picture Corp of America. The acquisition more than doubles the size of MGM's library.

MGM, owned by a group of investors led by Kirk Kerkorian, will also acquire 12 completed movies and five direct-to-video features for future release. Metromedia said that the deal will allow it to focus on its telecommunications business, particularly its expansion in Eastern Europe and the Far East.

The transaction does not include Metromedia's Landmark Theatre Group, which has 138 screens at 50 locations throughout the US.

After the acquisition MGM's combined libraries will consist of more than 3,600 titles, making it the biggest collection of post-1948 movies.

Along with wireless cable TV systems, Metromedia's telecommunications operations include FM and AM radio broadcasting, paging services and various kinds of telephone services in Eastern Europe, former Soviet republics and other emerging markets.

In addition to movies, MGM has a 4,500-title home video library and a television library. Its operating units include MGM Pictures, United Artists Pictures, MGM Music and MGM Interactive. The deal is subject to shareholder approval and is expected to be completed this summer.

Former chief stirs up boardroom row at Premier

By CARL MORTISHED

ROLAND SHAW, the former chief executive of Premier Oil, is stirring up a row over an alleged conflict of interest in the presence of Sam Laidlaw, chairman of Amerasia Hess, on the board of Premier. Mr Shaw yesterday suggested that Amerasia, which owns 25 per cent of Premier, might wish to make a bid for the company and he questioned whether Mr Laidlaw should have access to board documents.

Mr Shaw intends to cast his 2.77 million shares against the re-election of Mr Laidlaw at Wednesday's annual meeting and he said: "If Amerasia wants to make an offer, will it do it in co-operation with management or will they fight it vigorously?"

In a letter published in today's edition of the *Financial Times*, Premier's chairman, Barrie Stephens, said that Amerasia and Mr Laidlaw were prohibited from voting on any contract between Amerasia and Premier. "Premier's rapid growth during the last year, particularly in the highly competitive South East Asian region could not have been achieved against a background of conflict of interest."

Mr Shaw, who resigned as chief executive in 1992 after a

two-year decline in the company's share price, said that Premier's interest in Burma was undervalued by the market and he blamed institutions for failing to address the underperformance.

"They run for cover if anybody suggests they should stand up and be counted," he said.

Tempos, page 32

New setback over tobacco

THE tobacco industry had another setback in the US courts yesterday when the Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal against a Baltimore advertising ban.

A billboard company was challenging the city's ban on tobacco and alcohol advertising in residential areas, but the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia, ruled that the construction allows flexibility on advertising if a ban is made to protect children.

The same court will hear a US Food and Drug Administration case to be allowed to regulate tobacco advertising.

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* 1992-1996 performance, including dividend and dividend. Source: Investment Gap. Share prices 1992-1996. The top 5 performers on the Stock Market in 1996 were: British Petroleum, British Airways, British Telecom, British Gas, and British Airways. The remainder of the top 5 performers were: British Airways, British Gas, British Telecom, British Petroleum, and British Airways.

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Bell Lines rescue plan ready

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

A RESCUE plan for Bell Lines, the troubled freight group based in the Republic of Ireland, is to be presented to creditors this week and put before a Dublin court for approval next Monday.

The package, drawn up by an examiner appointed in February by the Irish High Court, is believed to involve a debt write-off, the injection of up to £15 million in capital and 200 job losses. It is expected that haulage opera-

tors, who are owed around £17 million, will be offered between 12p to 14p in the pound. Trade creditors, who are owed £18 million, should receive 12p in the pound.

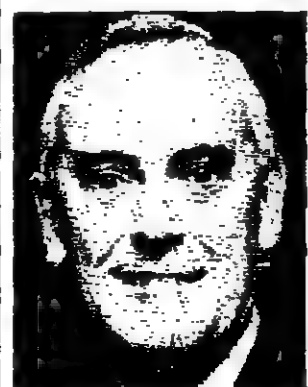
Of the proposed job losses, 70 will be in the Republic with the remainder coming from operations in Britain. The Netherlands, France and Germany, Bell, which recorded trading losses of £16 million last year, was badly hit by the Channel Tunnel.

It is expected that Irish Continental Group, the shipping company with a 25 per cent stake in Bell, will lead a consortium of investors who will inject £15 million into the company immediately as part of the restructuring plan.

It is still not clear whether venture capital funds - NatWest Ventures and CVC Capital Partners each owned a 30 per cent stake in Bell - will be part of the new investment consortium.

Results cheer Grampian

By ERIC REGULY



MacLeod: digital investment

SHARES in Grampian Television, the ITV broadcaster in the north of Scotland, rebounded yesterday from their year low after the company reported record earnings.

A strong local advertising market helped Grampian to make pre-tax profits of £11.8 million, or 25.7p a share, in the year to February 28, up from £5.8 million, or 11.6p a share. Excluding a £4.7 million one-off gain on selling the Scot FM radio station, earnings per

share were 14.5p, against 11.6p. A 5.25p final dividend makes 7.25p, up from 5.4p.

The shares rose 17p, to 263p, after a 12-month low of 243p last week. Anthony de Larrinaga, analyst with Panmure Gordon, sees Grampian as still undervalued, and with the attraction of being a takeover target. Scottish Television is thought the likeliest suitor.

Cahm MacLeod, chairman, said Grampian is investing in digital broadcasting capability.

Go-Ahead to board Brighton Bus

By FRASER NELSON

GO-AHEAD, the transport group, is to strengthen its presence in the South East of England by buying Brighton's second-largest bus company, giving it control over most of the town's public transport.

The company is paying £5.76 million for Brighton Bus, which was bought by its drivers, management and office workers for £320,000 four years ago. It already owns Brighton's Thameslink rail fran-

chise and Brighton & Hove, the town's main bus operator. The company is paying Brighton Bus employees 180p a share. The 250 workers who originally supported the buyout paid 10p a share. Half will miss out on Go-Ahead's offer having sold shares in the in-house market which last valued them at 48p apiece. The average payout will be £28,800.

Ian Butcher, finance director, said the company would dominate public transport in Brighton after the deal, but the

core area may be too small to warrant MMC attention. "We will just have to see how the MMC interpret 'area'. What people forget is that travel companies are competing all the time not just with each other, but with other forms of transport."

"We see most of our competition comes from cars, and we compete by improving value for money. There's a strong argument for having a single dominant operator because it lets you work much more closely with local government."

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How should you vote if you want to reduce the chances of a single European currency replacing the pound?

Assuming you do not live in a constituency which is winnable by the Referendum Party, the choice seems quite clear. The Times yesterday published a long list of parliamentary candidates unequivocally opposed to the single currency — and the great majority of these were Tories.

The obvious answer is to vote Tory, especially after John Major's sudden decision to offer his party a free vote. But often the obvious is wrong. Anyone who sincerely wants to preserve Britain's economic sovereignty and its democratic system of government, and who values these rights above tribal party loyalties, should vote Labour.

I touched on the negative reasons for such a judgment in the Economic View the Friday before last. I argued then that Mr

Why voting Labour could be best way to halt an undemocratic bankers' Europe

Major's promise of a free vote had made it more likely than before that a Tory government would lead Britain into EMU, since the Prime Minister would be able to rely on cross-party support for European policy, as Ted Heath had done in 1972. Let me now suggest a more important and encouraging reason why a Labour government might be more successful than the Tories in preserving Britain's economic independence — not just in the next parliament, but also in the longer run.

There are two critical points. First, keeping Britain out is only a second-best response to the challenge of EMU. A far better

solution would be to prevent Europe going ahead at all with a single currency, at least until anything like the undemocratic structure agreed at Maastricht. Until recently any hope of persuading the rest of Europe to abandon the Maastricht process seemed utterly forlorn, which is why Eurosceptics (myself included) have therefore concentrated on the second-best solution of keeping Britain out. We have known all along that any such reprieve was likely to be only temporary. If the single currency survived the initial uncertainties and crises, then Britain would almost certainly join the European superstate after 2002, under pressure from



the business community and the City, whether the Tories or Labour were in power. In the past few weeks, however, unexpected political developments have given hope of a last-minute reprieve from the whole

single currency disaster. The debate over EMU within Europe has been transformed — and has raised the possibility that a strong and united British government could exert a decisive influence on Europe for the first time since 1985-86, when Margaret Thatcher created the harmonised single market.

The second point to grasp is that the tide of European politics has reversed direction since the 1980s. The only people in Europe who can now stop a single currency are the leaders and voters of the social democratic Left. The parties of the Right in Europe have all fallen under the complete domination of Helmut Kohl and the German

CDU. The European Left, by contrast, has suddenly begun to understand the social costs and to question the political legitimacy of the "bankers' Europe" decreed at Maastricht.

This is most obvious in France, where the Socialists are moving on to an overtly anti-EMU platform in their election campaign. Lionel Jospin, the Socialist leader, declared yesterday that "we should not enter the single currency without conditions", all of which he knew to be totally unacceptable to the German Government and the Bundesbank. In Italy a similar process may soon be under way. Even in Germany the Left is poised on a knife-edge.

A breakthrough for a reinvented Labour Party in Britain might be sufficient to inspire the SPD to abandon its tired, traditionalist pro-EMU leadership and reinvent itself as a new Labour under the more electable and Eurosceptic Gerhard Schröder.

In sum, a victorious Labour government — especially one led by an attractive, potentially even glamorous, young leader like Tony Blair — could create a new dynamic on the Left in Europe. It could give voters of the Left the confidence that the Right can be defeated and politicians the hope that a new kind of left-wing politics can be reinvented by abandoning the dogmas of the past. Does Mr Blair understand the role he could play in creating a dynamic, democratic "people's Europe" instead of the depressed, bureaucratic "bankers' Europe" of Maastricht? Perhaps not. But at least, under Labour, the opportunity will be there for a British Prime Minister to grasp.

'Good guys' spread the net in non-stop war on dirty money

Ian Brodie looks at efforts to put wrinkles on the ever-inventive face of international laundering

John Moscow, the senior assistant district attorney in Manhattan better known for his work on the global investigation of the collapsed BCCI (Bank of Credit and Commerce International), will address a London symposium today on the global implications of US fraud and money-laundering laws and how they impact on City banks and money houses.

A fellow speaker will be Rowan Bosworth-Davies, a former detective with the Metropolitan Police company fraud squad and now with Timmuss Sainer Dechert, the law firm hosting the symposium. He will tell delegates: "Any person who seeks to do business which involves the transfer of US dollars anywhere... must be aware of the draconian implications of American legislation for them and their employers."

Mr Bosworth-Davies points out that 60 per cent of the world's trade is conducted in US dollars and 99 per cent of those transactions, worth approximately \$3.5 trillion, clear through the New York bank-clearing system on any given day. Therefore that money, and those who transmit or receive it, falls under not just US Federal law but New York County law as well.

Just how quickly the US authorities can react on the international stage is illustrated by a recent case. A simple computer screen shows that a Nigerian woman suspected of working for a drugs ring deposited \$50,000 in a Dutch bank. A couple of clicks reveal a network of payments that she made and received. A few more clicks go deeper, uncovering remote links between her and a web of company and individual accounts that had otherwise seemed unrelated and had gone unnoticed.

In a matter of seconds, suspicious bank investigators have followed threads to dubious transactions that would previously have taken them days to untangle. The software, Syfact, is a new wrinkle in the changing face of money laundering. The makers claim it is the most sophisticated means of fraud protection.

The system was developed by Inter Access Risk Management of Hilversum and has been installed in the last year by four leading Dutch banks. It is also in use in the Dutch Caribbean island of Aruba, a major money-laundering centre, and in Cyprus, a favourite trans-shipment point for the Russian Mafia's illegal profits. Several British banks are interested in Syfact.

Syfact may give the "good guys" an edge over the "bad guys", but experience shows that money launderers soon devise ways to counter the latest threat to their fortunes. Money laundering, the process by which drug revenues and other illicit profits are made to appear licit, is limited only by the imaginations of the launderers. Some £2 billion a year thought to be laundered through Britain where financial firms are obliged by law to take steps to prevent it, and face substantial penalties if they look the other way.

Typically, money laundering is a three-step process: placement: initial entry of illegal funds into the stream of commerce; layering: transactions calculated to conceal the funds' true source; and integration: injection of the money back into the economy in its disguised, seemingly legitimate form. Once laundered, it is as hard to distinguish as a needle in a stack of needles.

Drug cartels receive the most attention, but money laundering extends to a variety of organised and white-collar crimes, according to a new study by Michael Zeldin, former chief investigator for money laundering at the US Justice Department. He is now managing director in Washington for Defence Strategies International, specialists in safeguarding corporate clients against crime. He says the proceeds from dirty money support arms smuggling, insurance and bank fraud, counterfeiting, grey market sales, and international terrorism. When President Clinton issued orders blocking assets and prohibiting transactions with narcotics traffickers, his list included car dealerships, chains of chemists' shops,



Sharon Stone in Casino. Gambling is a much-favoured conduit for laundering

pharmaceutical manufacturers, chemical companies and import-export firms — all alleged fronts for washing Colombian cartel's drug profits.

Mr Clinton himself might have been stung by laundered funds. The FBI is investigating China's role in funneling money through Asian donors into his re-election campaign. Close to \$3 million is being returned as questionable.

Ingenuous laundering schemes have been uncovered in Britain: bearer bonds paid for in cash with false names;

casino chips bought for cash and turned in at the end of the evening for a cheque attributable to a winning; life insurance policies bought with cash and surrendered for a refund cheque; and fake invoices paid to shell companies overseas.

American investigators have just nailed a racket that used wire transfers, one of the oldest money-laundering devices. Cartels were sending \$1.3 billion a year back to Colombia through money remittance shops in New York catering to immigrants. The

torrent of cash indicated that immigrants must be wiring home the equivalent of their entire annual wages.

Then the US Treasury changed its rules and required remittance shops to report all transactions over \$750, rather than \$10,000. The law forced cartels to return to smuggling bulk shipments of cash in coffins, bowling balls and other crude hiding places. Customs agents were waiting — in three months they seized \$30 million.

Concerns are rising about

laundry online. The Financial Action Task Force, a group of 20 countries meeting in Paris, has given warning that the "speed, security and anonymity" of digital cash payments over the Internet could thwart techniques for tracking tainted money.

E-money payments are made over systems that allow customers to store funds on their hard drives or on computer chip cards and to transfer them electronically to merchants, banks, or indeed anyone around the world under the cloak of encryption.

The systems are still experimental. Launderers face the problem of entry and exit "choke points". How do they load a large amount of dodgy money into e-money accounts undetected and cash it out into real money at the other end?

Monex International, a London company that franchises its e-money computer card technology to banks and corporations, takes the threat of infiltration by money launderers extremely seriously.

Most banks transferring cash into digital money limit the amounts to no more than £300. That means a criminal would need hundreds of cards to launder a substantial sum. Ordinary cash might be simpler after all.

The Glasgow law firm of Semple Fraser has posted an Internet warning to British firms to be on the alert for money launderers to avoid the risk of heavy penalties. The laws compel companies to take preventive measures.

There are five money-laundering offences in Britain: concealment of funds derived from criminal conduct; acquisition of such funds; assistance in retaining or controlling the funds; failure to disclose a suspicion of money laundering; and tipping off a suspect about a police investigation into money laundering.

Lawyers, accountants and others handling transactions for third parties are encouraged to know their clients. They need to look out for money arriving from unexpected sources and be wary of anyone who is secretive about his or her identity or background. They must develop a sense of detecting anything that does not feel right.

As Semple Fraser puts it: "Those who choose to turn a blind eye to the legislation will assuredly risk an unwelcome and heavy penalty."

BUSINESS LETTERS

EBRD director rejects reports of lobbying by a Belgian faction

From the Director for Belgium, Luxembourg and Slovenia, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Sir, As the official representative of Belgium in the board of directors of the EBRD, I would like to protest strongly against the allegations in your paper (Business News, April 8, April 9 and April 11) pertaining to a so-called Belgian faction within the EBRD, lobbying against the possibility of an American candidate succeeding Ron Freeman as the EBRD's first vice-president.

In a statement to Reuters on April 8, I stressed that Belgium was fully supporting the process set up by Jacques de Larosière, EBRD president, to select and recommend to the

board of directors a first-rate banker with a profile as close as possible to that of Mr Freeman, who made a decisive contribution to the EBRD's successful development over the last six years.

I should also like to emphasise that a number of Belgians of outstanding calibre work within the bank and Belgium is proud of them. I can assure you that they all have the highest respect for Mr de Larosière's management and trust him to find a successor worthy of Mr Freeman.

Yours faithfully, BERNARD SNOY, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, One Exchange Square, London, EC2.

Speaking for the IoD membership

From the Director-General of the Institute of Directors

Sir, I don't mind criticism, but it would be more helpful if it was constructive (Pennington, April 24).

Pennington says that my outburst against Labour policy was hardly constructive. But he then goes on to say that our members may benefit from having a strong voice to speak on their behalf, particularly with an incoming Government.

Secondly, Pennington mocks my efforts to draw attention to the poor public perception of business and the values it adopts. But two thirds of the 2,500 people present at our annual convention agreed with me that it was a problem.

Perhaps Pennington should listen to them rather than to me. Yours faithfully, TIM MELVILLE-ROSS (Director-General, The Institute of Directors, 116 Pall Mall, SW1).

Saver seeks windfall reinsurance

From Mr A. D. R. Holland

Sir, Having paid a windfall tax on a modest holding of bank shares, held for 40 years and levied by a Tory Government, it seems likely that an incoming Labour government will levy this populist form of tax on my utility shares, held since privatisation.

Having been a steady saver for about 40 years, it seems that I am about to receive a windfall on my long-term insurance policies. From reports in the financial press, it would seem the total windfall could amount to £20 billion, divided among as many as 20 million voters.

It would be reassuring if the main political parties would undertake not to tax these windfalls in the next parliament, except under taxes already in existence.

Will they give this unequivocal reinsurance, or is there a hidden agenda? ANTHONY HOLLAND, Windesham Manor, Windesham, Surrey.

Clutching at straws in the quest for success

From Mr Kenneth Armittage

Sir, The fact that Tom Peters has consistently failed in his "attempts to build a consultancy business on the back of his success" ("Fading fame of a management guru", April 10), only serves to prove the maxim that "those who can, do, and those who cannot, teach, or lecture".

The point about *In Search of Excellence* is, surely, that it was written at a time of recession, and when people are under pressure they will clutch at any straw that might make them feel that they are doing something to improve performance when, clearly, they have little or no control

over external circumstances, and certainly not in the short term.

Further, the Japanese management model, based on quality service and quality products to meet the demands of customers, appears to keep rumbling along whilst we, in the Anglo-American model, have gone through delayering, downsizing, business process re-engineering (BPR), empowerment and outsourcing to name a few and have still not succeeded to the same degree.

Yours faithfully, K. P. ARMITTAGE, 6 Deben Valley Drive, Kesgrave, Suffolk.

Filling in new tax return proves not so taxing

From Miss Delia Twamley

Sir, I started with some trepidation on my new tax return 1996-97 in view of the unfavourable publicity. I was surprised how easy it is to fill in — and I have not read the accompanying guide. I had to telephone my local people-friendly tax office with two minor questions, which were answered, as always, quickly and efficiently; but I was surprised to learn that, as yet, they did not have copies of the forms that have been sent out.

On a less happy note I then had occasion to telephone a department of my stockbroker with a question. I was told that they could not answer any questions then as the "system had crashed" over the weekend and they had "gone blind". I was advised by the helpful, but actually helpless, man to ring again, and this I fully intend to do. Yours faithfully, D.W.B. TWAMLEY, 15 Chapel Close, Oxford.

Double blow

THESE are trying times for Lord Hambro. Yesterday, his merchant bank was driven into issuing a grovelling apology to the Co-op over its role in the Lancia non-bid fiasco. But this ignominy can hardly have been more painful for the top Tory fundraiser than seeing Taylor Woodrow, where he is a non-executive director, putting up cash for the Labour Party.

The latest Taylor Woodrow report admits to a £5,000 political donation to sponsor a "Planning for

Prosperity" conference, a platform for new Labour speechifying. The company still gave its customary £25,000 to the Conservatives but was clearly keen to make a gesture of goodwill to the other side. Lord Hambro will be saved the difficulties of convincing the board to keep up the Tory donation next year: he is standing down from Taylor Woodrow's board at the annual meeting in June.

ON the subject of Taylor Woodrow, it is good to see that Keith Egerton, who runs the housebuilding flat, has reserved himself a £165,000 flat in the group's new development at The City Quay, overlooking Tower Bridge and but a stone's throw from The Times's offices. A case of "Le Patron habite ici."

Cable guy

EXTRAVAGANT claims from biotechnology companies are nothing new, but Chiroscience's John Padfield has a corker. Before the £120 million purchase of Darwin Molecular last November, Padfield had to make his pitch to the Seattle firm's board — including Bill Gates and Paul Allen, the founders of Microsoft. The Chiroscience boss turned up with his presentation on a laptop

computer — complete with slides based on the cover of Gates's book. But Padfield's heart was soon sinking when, with Gates and Allen looking over his shoulders, he could see no way of connecting the laptop to the office projector. Equally nonplussed, the software whizzkids sent for a technician. He was not needed. Padfield realised the problem was easily solved by switching round the computer cables. "Gee," quipped Gates, "you must know more about computers than we do!"

Away victory

A CLUE to Robin Launders's commitment to his job as chief executive of Leeds United, which he left yesterday, came last week when he and

Mark Corbridge, chief executive of Newcastle United, were both due to address a conference on Football and Finance. They found themselves on the same train down from the North which stopped at Peterborough and would not go on because of bomb scares. Corbridge manfully hailed a taxi and said he would fight his way into London while Launders merely scuttled back to Leeds.

First to go

RUMOURS abound that all is not sweetness at Queen Anne's Gate, the home of Hambro Magan which NatWest bought for £150 million last year. Odelle Griffiths, a managing director, has resigned and is leaving on Wednesday. She is the first senior Hambro person to go. Perhaps those golden handcuffs were just not strong enough.

Seoul warning

ANYONE else thinking of attacking Britain's suddenly beloved CWS might heed news from Seoul, where civic groups threaten a nationwide boycott of Coca-Cola over the Americans' treatment of Bum Yang Food, South Korea's main Coke bottler. Bum Yang has roused the nation's ire by claiming that Coca-Cola used new open competition rules to stop its 25-year contract and try to buy its assets at "extraordinarily" low prices in a "hostile takeover bid". Coke denies it is a bum deal.

Rank upset

OH DEAR, oh dear. My man on the taxi rank tells me of a small contretemps the other day between a large silver Mitsubishi Shogun and a London cab. The side-on collision caused considerable damage to the taxi whereas the Shogun appeared remarkably unscathed. Just as well really since it was a company vehicle about to be returned to its owner, one Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, by its former star employee, one Nicola Hortic. For the record it was the nanny who was at the wheel and not Nicola.



Nicola Hortic will be talking to her nanny after a collision



Lord Hambro saw his bank having to issue an apology

Self-employed ready to head off witch-hunt after election

By Rodney Hobson

GROWING concern over the status of self-employed people in the construction industry will be brought to the attention of Treasury ministers immediately after the general election.

Stephen Alambritis, spokesman for the Federation of Small Business, said: "We have already made representations before the election were called seeking assurances that there would not be a witch-hunt against the self-employed."

"We are waiting to see who is in the Treasury on May 2 so we can take up the cudgels again. We are calling for the right for people to declare that they are self-employed and it should be up to the Inland Revenue to contest that at the Revenue's expense."

At issue is a campaign by the Inland Revenue and the Contributions Agency to reclassify as employed up to 500,000 of the 750,000 holders of 714 certification. These government certificates, issued to workers in construction and related work, have previously been accepted as proof that holders are genuinely self-employed. They act as sub-contractors, receiving payments without tax or National Insurance deducted.

Taking workers into employment costs a company about 15 per cent on top of the wages bill. Given the continuing depressed state of the

construction industry, workers are having to take pay cuts because employers cannot pass on the extra cost. Some of those affected claim that the Inland Revenue is effectively deciding when the rules will be enforced. The Revenue maintains that those who are genuinely self-employed have nothing to worry about. It offered an amnesty to companies that reclassified workers as employees, promising not to claim tax on previous years.

Barry Siasberg, who provides book-keeping and accountancy services to clients in the construction industry from his Northampton office, said: "For some 25 years, the Inland Revenue and the Contributions Agency have been practising the most flagrant, deliberate and inexcusable maladministration regarding employment status in the construction industry. They have created an employment custom contrary to legislation. A whole culture cannot be changed in a day."

Mr Alambritis said: "The Inland Revenue is aghast that there are 750,000 certificates in the system. This has arisen because the Government had been so successful over the years in encouraging self-employment. Our worry is that the Inland Revenue is under enormous pressure to cut back on spending and one of the sectors they can look at is small businesses, where they are raking in only small sums in tax."

Mike Warburton, senior tax partner in Grant Thornton, financial advisers, fears that some agencies supplying workers to the construction industry are in for a nasty shock. He said: "The National Insurance laws say that agencies who supply workers to the construction industry must also pay their NI contributions. However, until now, the taxman has not always chased this payment."

There are four million self-employed in the UK, about a quarter of the European Union total. More than half of them have turnover of less than £12,000 a year.



"I'm just looking at the list I made before the last election"

Spring role!

If you are self employed you will receive a Self Assessment tax return this coming Spring

Take away your own guide to Self Assessment now! Call 0345 16 15 14

Adverts are topping on takeaway

By Rodney Hobson

AN IDEA ignored for more than six years resurfaced to show why some small business owners are more successful than others.

Richard Francis, managing director of Spiral Packs, explains how he made an already profitable company more successful. He says: "I was part of a team that bought out a company making lids for food cartons. I walked round the very clean factory and saw the product going through all white."

"I felt there was something wrong but I didn't know what it was. When I came back with the

buyout team it was mentioned in the course of discussions that six or eight years previously someone had thought about putting advertisements on the lids. The penny dropped. I saw the opportunity of adding value by putting colour where colour had not been before."

At that time Mr Francis was managing director of a textile company selling furnishings and his background was in designing so he had an eye for visual impact. The result, Adlids, can be seen increasingly by buyers of takeaway meals. The UK has 17,000 Indian

and Chinese food outlets, more than 6,000 of them takeaways. The rest are restaurants that also supply meals to take home.

Adlids supplies nearly a billion food carton lids a year, sold through wholesalers. About 600 million go to Chinese and Indian takeaways. Advertisers pay £20 to £25 per 1,000 to adorn them, depending on the size of the order. They can have a message distributed nationally or tailored to television transmission areas. So far, clients include the Inland Revenue, publicising self-assessment, the De-

partment of Transport, campaigning against drink-driving, Channel 4 Television, Tango soft drinks and Blackthorn cider.

To give outlets the incentive to use the lids, they are sold at a discount to the plain white ones. Mr Francis says: "Our product guarantees impact. You have to look at the lid while you open the carton. There are 5.1 million takeaways sold each week largely to people with high disposable incomes."

Adlids: 0181-311 9000

Bank finds optimism among black entrepreneurs

By Brian Collett

BLACK owners of small businesses are the ethnic group most likely to write formal business plans, Barclays Bank researchers have reported.

They found that 56 per cent of those interviewed had produced detailed plans and that 60 per cent had undertaken vocational or practical training. They also found unexpectedly high confidence among black businesses, which probably resulted from careful start-up preparation. Among the respondents, 84 per cent were optimistic about their prospects and 79 per cent believed that ethnic minority businesses had an increasingly important role to play in the economy.

"It was one of the more surprising aspects of the research," said Peter Oatley, Barclays Bank's small business services manager. It contrasted with optimism among only 63 per cent of their white counterparts and was maintained in spite of the obstacles faced by black business people. Almost half said that they had suffered discrimination and 30 per cent said that they had become self-employed because they could not obtain work.

Another finding by the Barclays researchers was that, of the ethnic minority entrepreneurs, Asians worked the longest day - 11.1 hours on average.

The Small Business Bureau and NatWest have helped to set up the African Caribbean Westminster Initiative, with Lord Taylor of Warwick as its first president. The aims include establishing a business research centre, training non-executive directors and trustees, and promoting African Caribbean businesses.

BRIEFINGS

more staff in the past year, and a third intend to do so this quarter.

Worldgate, a new business support centre, has opened on the site of the closed Trentham Colliery, near Stoke-on-Trent, as a partnership involving Staffordshire University, the county's chamber of commerce, Business Link and training and enterprise council and private-sector companies.

A project to boost sales by small food and drink producers in western England is being launched by Taste of the West, a trade support group set up by Food from Britain and the National Farmers Union.

Backing has come from the EU, local government and NatWest. Worldgate aims to encourage greater use of information technology by businesses.

A free booklet on business-to-business marketing in Europe is being offered by the PCMC marketing services company, of Reading, Berkshire. The Guide to European Business-to-Business

The West Country Cooking Project will feature A Guide to West Country Cooking, due out in the autumn, which will promote producers and restaurants.

A free booklet on business-to-business marketing in Europe is being offered by the PCMC marketing services company, of Reading, Berkshire. The Guide to European Business-to-Business

Direct Mailing looks at design, cultural differences and account management. Call 0118-988 0400.

Business in the Community and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations have formed a task force to consider how companies, especially small and medium-sized ones, can work with voluntary bodies for mutual benefit. The move is a response to last year's Deakin Commission report, which found potential for better links between business and the voluntary sector.

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SELF ASSESSMENT

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Shares close at best of day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

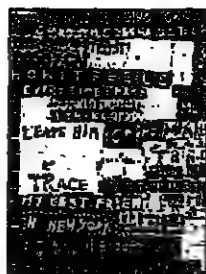
1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	99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■ VISUAL ART 1

Christine Borland
delves obliquely
into the dark
history of Nazi
science at the
Lisson Gallery



■ VISUAL ART 2

... while, at
the South London
Gallery, Tracey
Emin digs
into the traumas
of her own life

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ MUSIC 1

Sir Georg Solti
steers the LSO
through fine,
searching
performances
of Shostakovich



■ MUSIC 2

... and Maurizio
Pollini brings
his customary
intensity to
a Beethoven
piano recital

Get some bones, get a life

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork visits shows by two pioneering women, one macabre, one autobiographical

Like the reincarnation of a figure from the darkest Jacobean tragedy, Christine Borland is obsessed with bones. But her approach is more forensic than ghoulish. In the early stages of her most haunting work, she was astounded to discover that it was possible to order a real human skeleton through the post. Having paid £900 and received her grisly mail-order acquisition, she set about using crime detection methods to discover the identity of the corpse.

Helped by an osteologist, Borland carefully reassembled the bits and pieces. They revealed that the bones were those of an Asian woman who died at the age of 25 after at least one pregnancy. So for an eerie yet compassionate exhibition in Glasgow, where Borland lives and works, she juxtaposed the bones with a blow-by-blow display of her investigative process. It culminated in a bronze reconstruction by forensic scientists of the dead woman's face — a poignant, post-humous tribute.

Nothing so shocking can be found in Borland's first one-person London exhibition. Throughout the aply clinical white rooms at the Lisson Gallery, though, the same dedication to a methodical uncovering of the past is detectable. In the most substantial work, *L'Homme Double*, six clay heads by different artists are positioned on plinths. They were commissioned by Borland, who asked each of the sculptors to make a traditional, lifelike portrait of the infamous doctor, Josef Mengele.

Photographs and verbal descriptions of the Nazi war criminal were supplied, but they testify only to his maddening elusiveness. No wonder that the sculptors, confronted by such an enigma, have produced heads notable for their grey, academic sobriety. Although Borland told them that the information she supplied "can be interpreted as freely as you wish", the main differences between them centre on the presence or absence of a moustache and a tie. The macabre and repulsive nature of Mengele's atrocities is wholly at odds with the conventional decency of the faces on view here.

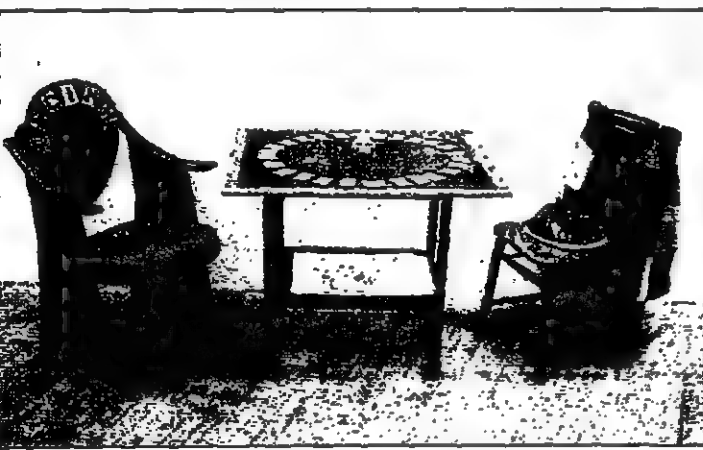
All the same, there is no doubting Borland's readiness to confront and explore even the most gruesome aspects of life. The emotional

commitment behind her, seeming coolness erupts in the small room next to *L'Homme Double*, where two battered chairs carry photocopies of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. We are invited to sit down and read them, and on their covers Borland has printed an impassioned quotation from *Paradise Lost*: "Did I request thee, Maker, From my clay To mould me man? Did I solicit thee From darkness to promote me?"

Wandering through the rest of the show, we come across fragmented manifestations of Borland's intense, governing concerns. Some might easily be overlooked — like the replica of a 38 Government Colt Automatic visible, as a blurred form in a blue-striped plastic bag, at the bottom of the shadowy basement stairs. Borland prefers understatement to the rhetoric of Milton or Shelley, and the first-floor gallery yields its contents slowly. The room is in darkness. Here, embedded in the concrete floor, are a dozen brilliant-cut diamonds.

They look randomly scattered at first, but then spectral suggestions of a human form become apparent around them. It seems on the verge of disappearing. But the diamonds turn out to pinpoint its anatomy with surprising precision. They are also another means of reminding us that our bodies can be bought and sold like jewels or any other commodity on the market.

Borland's awareness of corporeal fragility is conveyed most clearly in *Bison-Bison*, a work that takes as its springboard an experiment described in *Gray's Anatomy*. On



Uninhibited scenes from a painful life: *Taci Min* by Tracey Emin

the long central table, the animal's astonishingly elongated vertebrae extend from one end to the other. It is an awesome spectacle, but Borland has extracted the bones' organic compounds. As a result, they become as light as paper and look ready to crumble at a touch. Towards the far end they have already turned into blue-tinged powder, whereas the bison ribs on the other two tables are orange and surprisingly supple. Their mineral compounds have been removed, leaving them so soft that the artist was able to twist some of the ribs into knots — an unexpectedly playful gesture that highlights the wry, dry humour underlying an exhibition riddled with intimations of morality.

Tracey Emin, another of the young women who play such a prominent role in the new British art, shares Borland's feeling for vulnerability. But everything in her show at the South London Gallery is focused unabashedly on Emin's

own life. Furniture, drawings, photographs, paintings, written texts, found objects and videos are all candidly employed by an artist who calls her exhibition *I Need Art Like I Need God*.

Everything on view here is presented as part of Emin's salvation, her way of exorcising the traumas of the past. On one of the brazenly revealing videos, her mother admits that she thought the adolescent Tracey "would have

gone to the dogs if you hadn't gone to art school". Emin talks frankly on video about the time she was raped, and concludes that "for me my childhood was over". She describes her moments of depression, and attempted suicide, how schoolkids taunted her with racist abuse, and the anger she still feels about her abortion.

Nothing, it seems, is excluded from this startling and raw self-exposure. In another artist's hands, the outcome could easily degenerate into an intolerable form of narcissism. Against all the odds, though, this show does not feel self-indulgent. For one thing, Emin never makes the mistake of raising herself above criticism. Her feelings of guilt and envy are freely exposed in a white partitioned room at the centre of the gallery, where she recreates an installation produced in Stockholm last year. The discarded paintings inside, including blue body-prints unacceptably close to Yves Klein's work, are often inscribed with messages and exhortations, directed either at friends or herself. Perhaps the most germane is the

command boldly telling Emin "Not To Be Afraid. Most Of My Life Has Been Built On Fear".

Judging by the uninhibited mood of the exhibition as a whole, Emin succeeds in obeying this injunction. Her often searing book of memoirs has been published under the heading *Exploration of the Soul*, and a panoramic colour photograph shows her clutching it in Monument Valley during an epic trip across America.

There is no suggestion, at any stage in this labyrinthine voyage through Emin's history, that she has reached a plateau of serenity. Bitterness frequently explodes, above all in some accusatory prints scrawled with outbursts like "You Were Not Men You Were Less Than Human". On these occasions, Emin's

writing becomes as direct and raw as the graffiti she admits to scrawling on the sea wall at Margate. In another mood, however, she is capable of drawing small, tender images of birds.

Her command of line is impressive, especially in some spidery nudes and street scenes reminiscent of German and Austrian Expressionism. But Emin's work is so dartingly various that it cannot be categorised with ease. Binding all these offerings together is a confessional urge, and Emin shows no sign of exhaustion in her compulsive, versatile attempt to turn the messiness of life into art.

Christine Borland at the Lisson Gallery (0171-724 2739) until May 10; Tracey Emin at South London Gallery (0171-703 6120) until May 18

Nothing is excluded from her raw self-exposure

AROUND THE GALLERIES

DAVID HISCOCK is certainly not the only painter who has taken photographs (or vice versa), but he is unique in the quality of his thought about the relationship between the two activities. Although he began with works which combined photography and painting, recently he seems determined to let his media develop separately, and yet all that he does brings them closer and closer together. *Strokes*, his new show at Purdy/Hicks, is in two parts, "Landscapes", which are fundamentally photographs, and "Interiors", which are fundamentally paintings. The two seem to have started at opposite ends and gradually met in the middle through the unifying force of Hiscock's own powerful vision. Hiscock is a true original, and his art exerts the same haunting power whatever medium he chooses to work in. *Purdy/Hicks, 65 Hopton Street, Bankside, SE1 (0171-401 9229), Tues-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-2pm, until May 17.*

REMEMBER those freshly coloured prints of clipper ships under full sail in Uncle Fred's hallway? Like as not they were taken from paintings by Montague Dawson (1895-1973). It is the sort of art which tends to bypass critics completely, while going straight to the heart of those with romantic fantasies about the flung spray and the blown spume and the seabirds crying.

Dawson was an experienced sailor who could be trusted to get his facts right in the most minutely documentary work, such as he did in the Second World War for *Sphere* magazine; he was a keen historical researcher as well. Frost & Reed's retrospective is a timely reminder of an artist working with dash and flair. *Frost & Reed, 2-4 King Street St James's, SW1 (0171-839 4645) Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm, until May 23.*

MARO GORKY is so well-connected that it is amazing she is the fine, free-spirited artist that she is. She is the daughter of Arshile Gorky, leading (if eccentric) New York Abstract Expressionist. And she is married to Stephen Spender's artist son, Matthew. But Gorky goes firmly in her own direction, ignoring the world around her. Not totally ignoring her physical environment, however, since though she is becoming increasingly abstract, she is still fundamentally a landscape artist. Her most recent work at Long and Ryle continues at once to simplify and elaborate on the natural scene. And the vibrant colour harmonies are all her own. *Long and Ryle, 4 John Islip Street, SW1 (0171-834 1434) Tues-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 2-5pm, until May 17.*

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

CONCERTS: Double dose of Beethoven on the South Bank; centenary celebrations in Sussex; and Solti sheds light on a Shostakovich symphony

Played at heroic length

Maurizio Pollini
Saito Kinen
Festival Hall

Beethoven loomed large at the Festival Hall over the weekend. Seiji Ozawa and the Saito Kinen Orchestra devoted half their programme on Saturday to him, and the evening before Maurizio Pollini returned for the fifth recital in his seven-part cycle of the composer's 32 piano sonatas.

By chance it was not just "any" Beethoven: everything we heard was written within a concentrated six-year period at the beginning of the 19th century. Unlike many pianists, Pollini is tackling the sonatas in chronological order, and he played the five sonatas Op 54 to Op 81a, which date from between 1804 and 1809, the time of the Napoleonic Wars and two humiliating French occupations of Vienna. The *Eroica* Symphony was written in 1803 and dedicated to Napoleon, but the following year an enraged Beethoven famously tore out the title page when Bonaparte proclaimed himself Emperor.

This was the time of Beethoven's "heroic phase", when his music began to break new, uncompromising ground, and in stimulating performances Pollini emphasised the revolutionary aspects of these works. Sometimes recently this modern giant of the keyboard, renowned for both the techni-

cal brilliance and intellectual stature of his playing, has appeared to have "gone respectable" with "safe" performances: not here, where the outwardly conventional sequence of three movements in the *Appassionata* concealed raging turmoil. After an intense, inward-looking opening, Pollini played up the insistent knocking of fate, and followed it with a lament that was swept away by the swirling finale.

In Op 81a, *Les Adieux*, Pollini gave another newly exciting interpretation of very familiar music. He was just as satisfying in the less frequently played Op 54 in F, where he made light of the second movement's *perpetuum mobile*, and he caught the capricious freedom that dominates Op 78 in F sharp. But he was most interesting in the "little" sonatina-like Op 79 in G: he rushed headlong into a very fast Presto opening, and revelled in the humour of the finale. The simple Italianate lyricism he brought to the Andante made this unsophisticated movement one of the evening's highlights.

JOHN ALLISON

Old pals' music act

EMI Centenary Gala
Glyndebourne

Old loyalties were to the fore in Sunday's gala for EMI's hundredth birthday this year. Glyndebourne was the appropriate choice for the first of three centenary concerts — two non-operatic evenings follow later. EMI came to record the pre-war Mozart performances in Sussex and the links have remained ever since. And there on stage as master of ceremonies for the high-priced occasion — top tickets £750 — was Nicolai Gedda, first signed for EMI by Walter Legge 46 years ago.

Gedda ruefully remarked that he was making his house debut, but many of the other singers on parade were old Glyndebourne hands. Some, like Alison Hagley, who gave ethereal tone to Nannetta's aria from *Falstaff*, had come up through the Festival chorus. Others, including Thomas Hampson, had made their reputations long before reaching the Festival Opera. Hampson also chose *Falstaff* and sent the sparks whizzing through the house with Ford's Vengeance aria. Hampson has the art of coming on cold and grabbing the audience within seconds.

Before taking over his MC function Gedda launched into Danilo's entrance aria from *The Merry Widow*, proof that

at 72 he can still get his larynx around Lehar. Plenty more operetta was to come, reminder of a dedication to this section of the repertoire, which was started by Legge and echoed by EMI's French arm.

Felicity Lott chose Messager, all saucy flirtatiousness as a lady from *Le Bal Masqué* who revels in having two lovers on the go. Nathalie Dessay, a dashing young French coloratura recently signed by EMI, then made it plain that if the English knew all about boulevard operetta, she was an ace at American musicals. She mocked and dazzled in *Glitter and be gay* from *Candide*, showing the same Hampson ability to mesmerise the house without ado. Barbara Hendricks was less successful in Lehar's *Giuditta*.

And so to opera proper. Amanda Roocroft revealed a new and sensuous weight to her soprano in Dvořák's *Rusalka*. Gedda said that it gave him pleasure to introduce not one but three tenors — adding mischievously "three young tenors, not old ones". Ian Bostridge gave delicate tone to Tamino's aria



Gheorghiu and Alagna

from *Die Zauberflöte*. And finally came Roberto Alagna.

He has just sung his first Werther in Toulouse and chose *Pourquoi me réveiller*, the voice taking a few bars to clear before Massenet's emotional melancholy was given full blood. He was joined by Angela Gheorghiu for the close of Act III of *Manon*.

Andrew Davis and Franz Welser-Möst, both in top form, shared control of the LPO. Then the audience went off for dinner while the finishing touches were put to the CD of the occasion.

JOHN HIGGINS

He's got rhythm

LSO/Solti
Barbican

And still we want to know what it all means. Shostakovich's symphonies continue to draw out brow-furrowing speculation in programme note and commentary, and nowhere more so than in the Fifteenth and last. Here are references to Wagner, to his own Seventh, Eighth and Eleventh Symphonies — then, just as you were enjoying one of those teasing little dances macabres, a blast of *William Tell* bursts out from the brass.

Sir Georg Solti's lacerating rhythmic precision, and the momentum with which he drove Shostakovich's sequence of events and allusions, created a compelling longer view of the work. One left remembering the power of the whole.

The assurance with which he built towards the climax of the second movement, through a progression of fine solos from the London Symphony Orchestra's principals, was an important part of the process. And the tense, unquiet undertones which he maintained throughout the murmuring and pulsings of the final Adagio already scented out the total abstraction of the symphony's ending, where nothing but reverberation remains.

As for all those worrying quotations... the Lithuanian

poet-in-exile, Czeslaw Milosz, once wrote that, in order to live in a totalitarian regime, one must be either a schizophrenic or an actor. These, surely, are Shostakovich's last masks: the early memories of Rossini, whirling into big-top bravado in the prancing circus of life; the necessary ambiguities of pomp and circumstance; the brief but ubiquitous assertion of identity in the little DSCH signature tune, here as dark and numb as it ever appears.

In Charlotte Hellekant's performance, earlier in the evening, of a selection of songs from Mahler's *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*, there could be little debate as to meaning. The Swedish mezzo-soprano gave a vividly projected performance, her idiosyncratically accented German lilting with the movement of her body in a folksy *Rheinlegendchen* and an almost caricatured *Sermon to the Fishes*. It was difficult for Hellekant to find either the vocal or spiritual stillness necessary for the visionary *Urlicht*, and she seemed only truly at ease again in the earthy little fable of the cuckoo and nightingale.

HILARY FINCH

CHOICE 1

Felicity Kendal stars in a new translation by Tom Stoppard of *The Seagull*

VENUE: Now previewing at the Old Vic

CHOICE 2

Mood indigo: a birthday tribute to the jazz great, Duke Ellington

VENUE: Now playing in the Purcell Room

THE TIMES ARTS



POP 1

Johnny Cash, the roughcut king of country, shows his new versatility at the Albert Hall



POP 2

... but at the Barbican Marta Sebestyén displays her remarkable tone all too briefly

POP: Johnny Cash plays old and new; Mansun's showcase of hits; Marta Sebestyén is on song

Family day in the country

Three years ago, the career of country music legend Johnny Cash took an unexpected turn. He teamed up with the hip metal and rap producer Rick Rubin and released the innovative American Recordings album, and also made a significant appearance at the 1994 Glastonbury Festival.

The Rubin partnership has continued with his latest album, *Unchained*, which again features songs by young musicians such as Beck, but this time, Cash was back on the more familiar London ground of the Albert Hall.

Johnny Cash

Albert Hall

A brilliant stretch of Kris Kristofferson's *Sunday Morning Coming Down*, then Tom Petty's *Southern Accents* and best of all, *Rusty Cage*, which Chris Cornell wrote for his band Soundgarden — a grunge quartet from Seattle — but which sounded as if it had been written just for Cash.

Unlike, say, Pat Boone, another 1950s icon, who recently recorded an album of heavy metal songs, Cash does what he does quite naturally, wrapping that great voice around the old songs, but also embracing new styles and interpreting them in his own way.

At 65, he remains the roughcut king of country music, appealing to new and hardcore fans alike.



ANN SCANLON

At 65, Johnny Cash inspires, and is inspired by, a new generation of songwriters

Too clever for words

Mansun
Kilburn National

MANSUN are not the sort of band to hang about. Since signing their record contract last year, they have scored a No 1 album, *Attack of the Grey Lantern*, and five hit singles, apparently without breaking sweat (their sixth, *Taxodermis*, was released yesterday).

Their live show was a similarly assured affair. Although in their early twenties, the four musicians from Chester were steeped in the stagecraft of an earlier generation. Lead guitarist Dominic Chavis and bass player Steve Strickland rock'n'roll poses reminiscent of their opposite numbers in The Clash, but toned down enough to play their parts with considerably greater accuracy. Singer and songwriter Paul Draper looked and sounded like a Damon Albarn understudy; cheekbones as angular as his vowels, lyrics and body language filtered through a truculent, smarter-than-thou attitude.

Nectar in small doses

Marta Sebestyén
Barbican

ANYONE who bought a ticket to see Marta Sebestyén on the strength of her haunting voice on the soundtrack of *The English Patient* would have been left wanting more from this one-off London appearance. Sebestyén has one of the world's truly great voices but on the night she used it all too sparingly, sharing the spotlight with her band Muzsikás and disappearing from the stage for long periods.

The band gave an almost workshop-style performance, showcasing the rich and varied Hungarian folk tradition. With two fiddles, a viola and a double bass they performed a range of tunes drawing on the Ottoman, Hapsburg, Jewish and gypsy influences which have all contributed to the middle-European musical melting-pot.

They brought with them two costumed dancers and Tori Arpad, an ancient gypsy cimbalom player and

Nectar in small doses

Marta Sebestyén
Barbican

one of the few who remembers the lost Jewish music of Transylvania — lost because almost everyone who played it failed to survive the Holocaust. It was a fascinating lesson in musical history with its moments of passion, particularly in a wild gypsy tune for violin and gordon, a Hungarian instrument looking like a cello but on which the strings are hit for percussive effect.

Yet during her lengthy absences from the stage, one could not help but long for Sebestyén's return. On last year's *Kismet* album she proved her versatility with songs from as far apart as Russia, India, Ireland and Greece. Here she restricted herself to the Hungarian tradition, but her control and emotional depth were still powerfully evident. Best of all — and this is no reflection upon the skill of Muzsikás — were the unaccompanied moments. Sebestyén's voice has so many cadences, you sometimes feel that other instruments merely clutter the beauty of a unique sound. She finished, of course, with *Szerelmek Szerelmek*, the impossibly romantic tune that Ralph Fiennes plays on the gramophone in the movie while wooing Kristin Scott Thomas. Even in the local cinema, the sound is awesome. To hear Sebestyén sing it live is unforgettable.

Nectar in small doses

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LONDON

ABSENT FRIENDS Revival of Ayckbourn's comedy, the one about Colin whose friends are determined to comfort him in his grief, except that they do. Michael Sandford directs. Greenfield, Croydon Hills, SE10 (0181-858 7750). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sat, 2.30pm.

DONNA ROBITA Phoebe Nicholls plays the patient applier, possibly hopelessly, but then it is a comedy. Eleanor Brown, Kathryn Hunter, Celia Imrie, Kerry Shale, Clive Swift also feature in Phyllida Lloyd's production. Alcega, Alameda Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sat, 3pm. Until June 7.

MICRO MIDGE Singer Barbara play and songbook. Tommy Whittle with his quartet learn up for this year's birthday tribute to Duke Ellington in a programme featuring songs and instrumentalists from the Duke's vast repertoire. Purcell Room, South Bank, SE1 (0171-359 4433). Tonight, 7.30pm.

THE SEAGULL A new translation of the play by Tom Stoppard. The fourth of 12 plays to be performed in the fourth of the Old Vic over a 40-week season. Victoria Hamilton, Felicity Kendal and Michael Pennington star in Stoppard's production. Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 7816). Tonight, 7.30pm. Then May

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

3.10.7.30pm, male Thurs (May 8) and Sat (May 9), 2.30pm (S)

ELSEWHERE

CONVENTRY Visit by English Touring Opera when brings two operatic loaves to town. The Marriage of Figaro. Mozart's comic tale of intrigue and mistaken identity alternates with Beethoven's *The Pearl Fishers*, both promising exquisite music and spectacle.

WARRICK Arts Centre, University of Warwick (01203 524524). Figaro tonight, Thurs and Sat, 7.30pm. Pearl Fishers tomorrow and Fri, 7.30pm (S).

SCARBOROUGH Scottish Ballet makes a welcome appearance in the South with its acclaimed double-bill of La Sylphide, Bournonville's classic set around a Scottish glen, and Troy Games, a humorous look at much one-upmanship.

WYCOMBE Swan, St Mary Street (0191 512020). Tonight, Sat, 7.30pm: male Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

MANCHESTER Silas Marner, a new comedy by Peter Nichols, set in the 1930s in a seemingly dangerous

Shrewsbury and an even milder Lord Chamberlain's office. With Sara Crowe, Rommy Baskerville and Gordon Reid. Directed by Roger Haines. Library, St Peter's Square (0161-236 7110). Mon-Thu, 7.30pm; Fri and Sat, 8pm; male Thurs (May 7) and Sat (May 17), 3pm. Until May 17.

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THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

Tennessy Barham continues to play Shakespeare's daughter, and Stephen

Boner the Puritan minister. Shakespeare, Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-404 5075). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; male Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm.

LADY WINDHAM'S FARE Bratman Murray's production of Wilde down from Manchester for a ten-week season. Gabrielle Drake plays the woman with a past, Robert Johnson the virtuous wife without a mistress. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-350 8800). Mon-Sat, 8pm, male Thurs and Sat, 4pm.

THE MAI Dublin premiere by Marina Carr, author of the haunting *Poet in the Marjorie*. Four generations of women whose lives have been variously distorted. Noddy Kent directs. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-350 8800). Mon-Sat, 8pm, male Thurs and Sat, 4pm.

MARLENE Silas Phillips gives an attractive performance as the singer with

the golden sheath dress. On the whole, more successful than Pam Gems's play. Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; male Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

AUTUMN BEASTS Cast of stars, including Mandy Patinkin, in a new-style production of short stories and plays by Saul. A show planned by Glyn Williams in the 1970s but never previously performed.

GEORGE STREET 188-Jerry's SW1 (0171-257 2875). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; male Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

TONY AND CLEM Stravinsky play with Alan Macdonald and Michael Gambon as scolar *André* and *Henriette* Orberg, doubling out the world as *André* and *Henriette*. W2 (0171-416 0077). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, male Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

LONG RUNNERS

Buddy Strand (0171-900 8800). **Clare** New Strand (0171-405 0072). **Clare** New Strand (0171-405 0072).

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol Φ) in release across the country

Hickcock's hypnotic thriller, with James Stewart and Kim Novak. *Lust for Life* (0171-536 0591).

CURRENT

THE ENGLISH PATIENT (15) Macmillan. Ralph Fiennes smoulders with passion for Kristin Scott Thomas. Epic, intelligent, though not quite what it seems. Director, Anthony Minghella.

RETURN OF THE JEDI (12) Luke Skywalker leads Darth Vader's army against the evil of the Empire. A special edition of the 1983 film, with Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford, and Carrie Fisher.

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NEW RELEASES

COLD COMFORT FARM (PG) Upstart cinema transfer for John Schlesinger's TV version of the 1982 rural melodrama. With Kate Beckinsale and Ewan McGregor. (0171-638 8811) Whittier (0171-352 5006) Haymarket (0171-436 1827).

EDDIE (12) Whittier Golding becomes a brilliant comedy. Steve Buscemi, including comedy, director, Steve Buscemi. Notting Hill Cinema (0171-727 0705) UCI Whiteleys (0171-436 1827) UCI Whiteleys (0171-436 1827) UCI Whiteleys (0171-436 1827).

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LAW

Abused and exploited

Aid for child prostitutes is required urgently, says Allan Levy, QC

Child prostitutes, some as young as 12, can be seen regularly on the streets of our cities. Recent reports by social workers and police officers, information presented at the Children's Society's national conference last month and the publication of an invaluable book *Child Prostitution in Britain* (edited by David Barrett, published by the Children's Society) have made the plight of these children known to many more people.

Though the facts have produced expressions of outrage and sympathy, not much progress has been made in providing effective remedies. In particular, the application of the laws covering this area is flawed. The civil law contained in the Children Act 1989 is significantly underused and the criminal law is being wrongly targeted at the children, rather than at those who are exploiting them.

Child prostitution may be defined as the provision of sexual services by those under 18 in exchange for some form of payment, such as money, drugs, other consumer goods or even a bed for a night.

Information as to the prevalence of child prostitution in Britain is fragmentary. National data is unavailable, as is a national picture. A former president of the Association of Directors of Social Services has suggested that charities are exaggerating child prostitution in order to attract funds.

In a letter to *The Times* (March 8) Barry Sheerman, MP, challenged this view, based on information he had gathered from the police, university researchers and social workers. He called for a proper evaluation, "speedily followed by steps to protect children from this particularly unpleasant form of abuse."

We know that between 1989 and 1995, 2,380 cautions were issued and 1,730 convictions were secured in regard to those under 18 in England and Wales for offences relating to prostitution. It is probable that at least hundreds of children in Britain are involved in prostitution.

Who are these children? A Council of Europe report in 1993 referred to emotionally damaged youngsters from broken homes, runaways, drug users and street children. Studies in Britain point to young runaways from their own homes and from placements in care. The Children's Society's 1994 study found that most ran away before the age of 16 and that one in seven of



Jodie Foster in *Taxi Driver*: a picture of innocence that belies the horror of children coerced into the sex industry

these young people had provided sex for money. Those involved preferred to refer to the experience as a "survival strategy" rather than prostitution.

Keith Hellawell, the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, has recently referred to heroin addicts as young as 12 turning to prostitution. Half of all prostitutes are now thought to be drug addicts and the average age of prostitutes was falling to about 17.

There is increasing evidence to link childhood sexual abuse with prostitution. David Barrett of Luton University, a leading academic, says that "a perpetrator within a family may cause the young person to flee the family home to be exploited by other perpetrators (although even some parents 'work' their children as prostitutes)".

The law has an important role to play in this area. Internationally, Article 34 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by the UK and more than 180 other

countries, places the responsibility on the individual country to protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. This includes child prostitution and the exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials.

In 1995 the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva recommended that the Government should address the issue of sexual exploitation of children here as a matter of urgency.

Domestically, a vital role falls on local authorities. The Children Act 1989 provides them with sufficient powers to be able to try to deal with the plight of the child victims. The authorities have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are in need by providing an appropriate range and level of services. They must take reasonable steps to prevent children within their area suffering ill-treatment or neglect. Additionally, they must

investigate whether they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child who is in their area is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm.

They can, for instance, take care proceedings, including emergency steps, in respect of a child. This formidable legal armoury is, unfortunately, being underused by many local authorities. They do not appear to be helping children in any effective way.

The problems with the criminal law are different. The provisions have been enacted piecemeal with no overall strategy or co-ordination. Even where effective, they are being used against the children rather than against those who exploit and abuse them.

There are signs that some police forces now recognise that treating children as victims and not criminals is more likely to divert them from prostitution. There is now strong evidence that the policy should be one of prevention and that protection proce-

dures, rather than prosecution, should be used.

There is a need for a wider recognition of the seriousness of the problem of child prostitution, and a high-level review of the role and content, particularly as to sentencing levels, of the law.

● The author is a specialist in childcare law.

● VOTE CRAZY 43
● LAW REPORT 48

Europe the key to new labour laws

During the past 18 years, employment lawyers have never had it so good. Employment departments in law firms thrive, membership of associations such as the Industrial Law Society and Employment Lawyers' Association is on the increase, and there is no end to conferences and seminars on aspects of employment law.

This is a curious state of affairs. Apart from controls on the unions, where the Conservatives have legislated freely and dramatically, successive administrations since 1979 have been committed to the deregulation of employment law.

Although there have been some successes, such as the abolition of wages councils in the Wages Act of 1986, the goal of deregulation has largely been thwarted by the need to implement European labour law standards.

The so-called opt-out from the Maastricht treaty has not substantially affected this, because the bulk of legislative activity in the field of European labour law has concerned directives subscribed to long before Maastricht, often as a result of European Court of Justice rulings, such as the Acquired Rights Directive, Redundancies Directive and Equal Treatment Directive.

What new employment laws can we expect after May 12? At first glance, both Conservative and Labour manifestos lack detail, although Labour has published a separate business manifesto.

The Conservative manifesto leads with a proposal to curtail strikes in essential services. Legislation would be introduced to remove legal immunity from industrial action which has a disproportionate or excessive effect. Members of the public and employers would be able to take legal action in these circumstances.

Also, strike action would have to be approved by a majority of members eligible to vote (not just those voting) and ballots would have to be repeated at regular intervals if negotiations were extended. No change of philosophy here.

Of no surprise either is the pledge to continue to give the EU's Social Action programme a wide berth.

Finally, there is a pledge to negotiate exemption from the Working Time Directive. This last promise, the employment law equivalent of a call for a "beef war", is, in all likelihood, unachievable, notwithstanding the UK's threat of non-cooperation at the inter-governmental conference in Amsterdam in June. Some cynics have observed that fighting a law that guarantees a minimum holiday of four weeks per annum and prevents a working week of more than 48 hours without an employee's consent is

unlikely to be the most vote-catching of Tory proposals.

Labour's manifesto is equally brief. Gone are proposals such as part-time workers' rights age discrimination; the review of the unfair dismissal qualifying period; the review of the unfair dismissal compensation cap of £11,300 and the end of abuse of zero hours and self-employment status contracts.

But will these detailed issues surface as concrete policy if Labour wins the election? Apart from the minimum wage and the commitment to training and reducing unemployment, the main manifesto also includes the right of employees to have their trade union recognised if a majority in the workplace vote for recognition — the most eye-catching of Labour's recent "business" proposals.

The party has pledged, in the main, not to return to pre-1979 collective labour laws, and not to restore full immunity for industrial action. But the return to compulsory recognition of trade unions is clearly old wine in a new bottle.

There is already anecdotal evidence of employer concern. But another view holds that compulsory recognition of trade unions may have less of an impact in the 1990s than in the 1970s.

For the purposes of transfer of undertakings, collective redundancies and the duty to consult the workforce on health and safety issues and the appointment of safety representatives, European law

has meant that where an employer does not recognise a trade union, information and consultation obligations must be discharged in favour of elected employee representatives (or, in health and safety, employees direct). Since March last year, non-unionised workplaces have been drawn into areas that previously only involved them if they recognised trade unions, so the impact of recognition may be less dramatic.

Labour's manifesto for business adds one more item on the collective front. This is protection against unfair dismissal for all employees sacked while lawfully on strike — an advance on the present law where only those selectively dismissed may claim.

Whatever the complexion of the next government, there is a substantial corpus of European labour law already binding in the UK. Its continued appraisal and re-interpretation by the European Court of Justice will mean that labour law will continue to be an evolving and dynamic subject irrespective of any party's domestic legislative agenda.

● Dr McMullen is National Head of Employment Law at PricewaterhouseCoopers and a Lecturer in Law at the University of Leeds. He has just published *Redundancy: The Law and Practice*.



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Saville for law lord?

ONE OF the first tasks for an incoming Lord Chancellor will be appointing a law lord to replace Lord Mustill. Hot tip is Lord Justice Saville who, like Lord Mustill, has a commercial law background, or possibly Lord Justice Rose.

Lord Mustill recently opened the Centre for Corporate and Commercial Law in Cambridge University's law faculty. At 66, he is well off retiring age — but is thought, after 19 years on the Bench, to favour a change.

Women's scoop

WOMEN might not be making it to partnership level but the City of Westminster Law Society has managed to scoop the board at its annual dinner with other professionals. All the after-dinner speakers — and most guests — were women, including Baroness Symons, former general secretary of the First Division Association, Mary Spillane, the US image consultant and Anne Fuller,

who chairs the Magistrates' Association. The idea was Sue Nelson's, the society's first woman president, who says there have been years when there was no woman speaker and even years "without a single woman official guest".

● Theodore Goddard reports that its Website, launched six months ago, has had more than 90,000 "hits". The firm's William James says that the page is popular with both law firms and other "surfers".

CV time

A NEW American law firm to send those CVs to Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, a Washington firm, has taken on 4,000 sq ft in London and persuaded John Edwards, a former Linklaters & Paines partner who took early retirement in January, to help to build a London practice.

Keith Hughes, resident partner, says: "I will be disappointed if, by year-end, we do

not have some English lawyers in the office."

Top scorers

THE breaking of the deadlock in the dispute over the future of the third-division club Brighton and Hove Albion's board was due to the mediation role of the Centre for Dispute Resolution (CEDR).

The Football Association asked CEDR to intervene when crowd violence over the dispute threatened public safety. After 20 weeks of arduous mediation, CEDR last week announced details of the settlement, agreed by the owners Bill Archer and Greg Stanley with the consortium led by Dick Knight.

The two mediators who can take the credit were Bill Marsh and David Richbell, both CEDR directors.

● Ross Cranston, the London School of Economics professor fighting the safe Labour seat of Dudley North, is likely to

form part of Labour's law team if the party wins on Thursday. A professor in commercial law, he would balance the criminal experience of the Shadow Attorney-General, John Morris, QC, and, lawyers say, would make an excellent Solicitor-General.

Merger mystery

THE much-heralded transatlantic merger between an American and a British firm may be about to happen. McDermott Will & Emery, the 14th-biggest in the US, is said to be in "hot and heavy" negotiations with a UK firm.

A source in the American firm says the UK firm has an office in Hong Kong, but not Singapore. British firms that fit the category include Richards Butler, Wilde Sapte, Lovell White Durrant, Simmons & Simmons, Bird & Bird and Gouldens.

Or is the about-to-merge Cameron Markby Hewitt and McKenna & Co seeking an American partner to fill the hole left when Denton Hall dropped out of merger negotiations?

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Bogus 'official' party candidates should not be entitled to deceive the voters, says David Engel

An end to this literal democracy

The joke candidate has a long and not entirely dishonourable tradition in British politics. Similarly, there is a well trodden path followed by politicians who fall out with their local constituency association. They usually stand as, say, an "Independent Conservative" or "Independent Labour".

This general election has, however, thrown up a different species, potentially far more damaging to the democratic process. Nominations closed on April 16. In several constituencies, candidates lodged nomination papers describing themselves in terms which, to a greater or lesser extent, misrepresented that they were the official candidate adopted and approved by one of the main political parties.

The impetus for this trend appears to have been the High Court decision in the *Literal Democrat* case in 1994. A Richard Huggett who stood in the last European Parliament elections described himself as the "Literal Democrat" candidate. Because names on a ballot paper are always in alphabetical order, Mr Huggett's name appeared before that of the official Liberal Democrat candidate. In the event Mr Huggett polled more than 10,000 votes. The genuine Liberal Democrat candidate was beaten by the Conservative candidate by less than 800 votes.

After the election, the High Court decided that the fact that some voters might be confused by a candidate's chosen words of description did not amount to a breach of the Parliamentary Election Rules in the Representation of the People Act 1983.

Mr Justice Dyson held that it was clear "the rules did not prohibit candidates, whether out of spite or a wicked sense of fun, from describing themselves in a confusing way or indulging in spurious tactics."

The decision appears to have given the green light to a number of candidates to exploit the present state of the law. On April 16 Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, the Attorney-General, sought an injunction to prevent a candidate standing against him as "Sir Nicholas Walter Lyell". This candidate

also described himself as "The Conservative Party Candidate", as did the genuine Sir Nicholas Lyell.

The Attorney-General was successful. The court accepted that to adopt the same name as well as the same description as the official Conservative Party candidate was a "fraudulent device or contrivance" likely to "impede or prevent the free exercise of the franchise" contrary to Section 115(2)(b) of the Representation of the People Act. This is the first time that a private law injunction has been granted to one candidate against another under Section 115(2).

The Attorney-General's success prompted further applications to the High Court the next day. The charge was led by Robert Guy, the official Conservative candidate for

about Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith's son who was standing in Hammersmith & Fulham under the slightly unexpected banner of "New Labour".

What emerged from this rash of applications was that the court would be reluctant to order any candidate to change the description used. Mr Huggett was ordered to drop the use of the word "official" in Brighton, but where the applicant was unable to show clear evidence of deception, the court was unwilling to intervene. Equally, it would not intervene when the applicant was too late because the statement of persons nominated and on the ballot papers had been printed. The Labour Party was unsuccessful for that reason in Hammersmith & Fulham.

A number of applicants were also hit in the pocket. Even where they were partially successful, they were ordered to pay the legal costs of Defendant Returning Officers (where the Returning Officer asked for them). But the main significance of last week's proceedings is that the court decided it did have jurisdiction to grant an injunction against a bogus "official" candidate where it was convinced that the candidate in question was using a "fraudulent device or contrivance" likely to deceive voters.

That is a novel development which in theory makes it easier for such candidates to be challenged, provided this is done before nominations are published and ballot papers printed.

The courts, however, lay down a strict timetable for delivery of papers, making it difficult in practice for a party candidate to know that he or she faces a bogus candidate in time to launch legal proceedings before logistics make it impossible for the court to intervene.

An unsuccessful candidate can complain, in an election petition, to the court after the election. This may cure but cannot prevent electoral wrongdoing. The other difficulty is that an election petition can be brought only against the successful candidate, who is unlikely to be the fraudulent candidate, even if the latter has attracted



Joke: Lisa Lovebucket, standing for Hackney North & Stoke Newington

enough votes to have a material effect on the election outcome. Despite recent events, the law still appears to allow candidates to describe themselves on their nomination and ballot papers in such a way as to deceive voters into voting for them in the mistaken belief they are official party candidates.

But the problem with the current rules is that they are aimed — rightly — at protecting the impartiality of the Returning Officer, who is responsible for accepting or rejecting nomination papers. He or she has little discretion to reject nomination papers, so long as the candidate is correctly identified by name and address. Clearly, the officer should not be put in a position where he or she might effectively be

making a party political decision. But there should be stricter rules as to when a candidate may represent himself as the candidate approved and adopted by the political party in question. The logistical timetable could also be amended to give time for an application to the court before nominations are published.

At present, courts are still largely tied by the state of the law. Mischievous candidates, or those whose aim is to deceive voters, can cause serious confusion sufficient to cause a miscarriage of democracy. This should be sorted out before the next election.

● The author is a solicitor in the media litigation group at the City law firm, Theodore Goddard.

Clamp down on highwaymen

Leonard Jason-Lloyd looks at

the laws covering people whose vehicles have been wheel-clamped

The Granada Television programme *World in Action* recently highlighted concerns regarding the exploits of private wheel-clampers and portrayed some of them as modern-day highwaymen.

It is often asserted that under English law little, if anything, can be done by a person in charge of a vehicle immobilised in this way. This immediately leads to calls for yet another law to be passed to remedy the plight of people caught in this predicament.

But does the remedy already exist? I believe that it does, especially in some of the circumstances disclosed by the *World in Action* team.

First, there is the offence of blackmail under Section 21 of the Theft Act 1968 which, in this context, involves an unwarranted demand for money with menaces. Clearly, there is a demand for money accompanied by the threat that the vehicle will remain clamped unless that sum is paid and that a greater amount will accrue if the vehicle is towed away. The only problem appears to be whether the courts would regard the threat as being justifiable.

In my view, when a private contractor wheel-clamps a vehicle that has been parked for only a few minutes and demands an exorbitant fee, it could be construed as being an unwarranted demand. This seems to be especially so in situations in which "no parking" or other warning signs are either non-existent or inadequate.

An alternative could be a prosecution under S.40 of the Administration of Justice Act 1970 which is the offence of unlawful harassment of debtors. Under S.40 it will be an offence where a debt is due, but the person claiming it under a contract harasses the debtor by using methods calculated to cause

him or her alarm, distress or humiliation. It may also be committed by falsely claiming that criminal proceedings can be taken for non-payment or if the defendant falsely represents that he or she is authorised to enforce payment in some official capacity or presents a document which gives the false impression that it is of an official nature.

The maximum sentence on conviction for blackmail is 14 years' imprisonment. It is also an

arrestable offence which means broadly that the police may arrest a person caught committing blackmail. In this fashion or a person who has committed or is about to commit this offence. It also means that with the exception of the latter power and some further restrictions, ordinary citizens may arrest for this offence, although such action could be precarious and might better be left for the police to deal with. In contrast, unlawful harassment of debtors is triable summarily only and punishable by a maximum Level 5 fine (at present £5,000).

Also, it is not an arrestable offence so any action taken by the police will have to be by way of a summons unless they have grounds to arrest under S.25 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (general arrest conditions such as failure to provide satisfactory particulars).

What would be the reaction of extortionate wheel-clampers if motorists affected by their exploits sought the help of the police, who in turn had to take action either under the law on blackmail or unlawful harassment of debtors?

Perhaps this may be the only way to have this proposition tested before the courts.

● The author is lecturer in law at the University of Derby.



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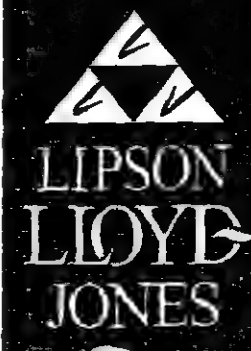
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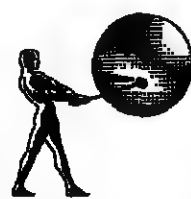
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Electoral support is relevant

Regina v British Broadcasting Corporation and Another, Ex parte Referendum Party
Before Lord Justice Auld and Mr Justice Popplewell
[Reasons April 24]

It was not irrational for a broadcaster to include previous electoral support in its general criteria for allocating party election broadcasts to political parties.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when giving reasons for having dismissed on April 18 an application for judicial review of the decisions of the BBC and the Independent Television Commission to allocate the applicant only one five-minute party election broadcast on their respective television networks.

The applicant was a political party founded in 1994. It was fielding 547 candidates in the 1997 election, claimed to have written pledges of support from about 200,000 potential electors, and appeared to have 3 per cent support in the polls.

It had been allocated by both the respondents only one five-minute broadcast on each network, in contrast to the allocation to the Conservative and Labour parties of five five-minute slots and to the Liberal Democrats of four five-

minute slots on each network. The applicant sought judicial review of the allocation on the ground, inter alia, that it was irrational because the respondents had included past electoral support in their criteria for allocating broadcasts, which a new party could not show, and had failed to take account of the electoral size and support, in particular the large number of its candidates.

Mr Geoffrey Robertson, QC and Mr Gavin Millar for the Referendum Party; Mr David Pannick, QC and Mr Paul Gouding for the BBC; Mr Christopher Clarke, QC and Mr Mark Shaw for the ITC; Mr William Wood for the Independent Television Commission.

LORD JUSTICE AULD, giving the judgment of the court, said that both respondents were obliged to secure that their programmes were not due to impartiality. The respondents had been given a wide discretion as to the rules they could make, inter alia, in relation to the allocation of broadcasts, to ensure that that obligation was fulfilled.

Both respondents either in their guidelines or as a matter of practice included in their criteria for allocating broadcasts a threshold requirement of 50 candidates which entitled a party to at least one broadcast, and, for further broadcasts, the number of can-

didates fielded and previous electoral support.

His Lordship said, referring to *Lynch v BBC* ([1983] NI 193) and *Wilson v Independent Broadcasting Authority* (1979 SC 351), that impartiality in the context of allocating broadcasts was not to be equated with parity or balance between political parties of different strengths, popular support and appeal.

It meant fairness of allocation having regard to those factors, yet making allowance for any significant current changes in the political arena and for the potential effect of the powerful medium of television itself in advancing or hindering such changes.

Accordingly, the court did not find that the inclusion of previous electoral support as part of the respondents' general criteria for allocation was irrational. His Lordship said that where it existed, it was obviously a relevant consideration, although only one of a number of factors to be taken into account in assessing the Government's policy on a matter of public concern whether in statute or contractual form.

Solicitors: Peter Carter-Ruck & Partners; Mr Sarah Jones; Allen & Overy; Goodman Derrick.

the other factors upon which a party relied to show its current and potential strength and entitlement to further allocation, which the court had found the respondents had done.

The application of the criteria by the respondents in the present case had been reasonable. The weight they gave to matters such as the number of candidates and current levels of support was a matter for them. The court should not intervene unless it was of the view that they were irrational in assessing those matters.

His Lordship also referred to submissions as to the BBC's susceptibility to judicial review. That was not a matter the court had to determine on the present application but it was, in their Lordships' view, possible that an obligation undertaken contractually to the Government to treat subjects of, inter alia, political controversy with impartiality would be regarded as "governmental" as defined in *R v Jockey Club, Ex parte Aga Khan* ([1993] 1 WLR 909) and therefore susceptible to review, because it reflected the Government's policy on a matter of public concern whether in statute or contractual form.

Solicitors: Peter Carter-Ruck & Partners; Mr Sarah Jones; Allen & Overy; Goodman Derrick.

MR JUSTICE LLOYD said that the action arose out of arrangements to take photographs for the cover of a forthcoming album by Oasis, Sony Music Entertainment (UK) Ltd, who had a recording contract with the group and Mr Noel Gallagher, lead guitarist with Oasis and deviser of the art work for the album sleeve, against the defendant, News Group Newspapers Ltd to restrain them from further publication of unauthorised photographs already published in *The Sun*.

Mr Nicholas Merriman, QC and Mr Richard Edwards for the plaintiffs; Mr Kevin Garnett, QC for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE LLOYD said that the action arose out of arrangements to take photographs for the cover of a forthcoming album by Oasis, Sony Music Entertainment (UK) Ltd, who had a recording contract with the group and Mr Noel Gallagher, lead guitarist with Oasis and deviser of the art work for the album sleeve, against the defendant, News Group Newspapers Ltd to restrain them from further publication of unauthorised photographs already published in *The Sun*.

The swimming pool was drained, a white Rolls Royce lowered into it and other objects were delivered. Mr Noel Gallagher supervised the positioning of objects and members of the group around the partially filled pool. Photographs were taken by an official photographer over several hours. Mr Gallagher chose one for the album.

Although secrecy was essential, some local fans turned up at the hotel and a freelance photographer was booked into the hotel by *The Sun*. Some fans had cameras. They were allowed to take photographs before the shoot.

The *Sun* photographer took some during the shoot and then left. One of his photographs was very similar to the official one chosen by Mr Gallagher. That and two others were published in *The Sun* on April 17, then again on April 18 with a poster offer to follow. On April 19 readers were invited to send £1.99 for a glossy poster of the new Oasis exclusive photo.

The plaintiffs were granted an ex parte injunction on April 21 and applied for an interlocutory injunction restraining publication until trial on the basis of breach of

No copyright in Oasis photo layout

Creation Records Ltd and Others v News Group Newspapers Ltd
Before Mr Justice Lloyd
[Judgment April 25]

Objects and people arranged in a scene for photographs for an album sleeve was not capable of being a copyright work within the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, but the taking of unauthorised photographs of the scene was arguably in breach of confidentiality.

Mr Justice Lloyd so held in the Chancery Division, granting an interlocutory injunction until trial or further order to the plaintiffs, Creation Records Ltd, who had a licence agreement in relation to the United Kingdom recordings of Oasis, Sony Music Entertainment (UK) Ltd, who had a recording contract with the group and Mr Noel Gallagher, lead guitarist with Oasis and deviser of the art work for the album sleeve, against the defendant, News Group Newspapers Ltd to restrain them from further publication of unauthorised photographs already published in *The Sun*.

Mr Nicholas Merriman, QC and Mr Richard Edwards for the plaintiffs; Mr Kevin Garnett, QC for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE LLOYD said that the action arose out of arrangements to take photographs for the cover of a forthcoming album by Oasis, Sony Music Entertainment (UK) Ltd, who had a recording contract with the group and Mr Noel Gallagher, lead guitarist with Oasis and deviser of the art work for the album sleeve, against the defendant, News Group Newspapers Ltd to restrain them from further publication of unauthorised photographs already published in *The Sun*.

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The swimming pool was drained, a white Rolls Royce lowered into it and other objects were delivered. Mr Noel Gallagher supervised the positioning of objects and members of the group around the partially filled pool. Photographs were taken by an official photographer over several hours. Mr Gallagher chose one for the album.

Although secrecy was essential, some local fans turned up at the hotel and a freelance photographer was booked into the hotel by *The Sun*. Some fans had cameras. They were allowed to take photographs before the shoot.

The *Sun* photographer took some during the shoot and then left. One of his photographs was very similar to the official one chosen by Mr Gallagher. That and two others were published in *The Sun* on April 17, then again on April 18 with a poster offer to follow. On April 19 readers were invited to send £1.99 for a glossy poster of the new Oasis exclusive photo.

The plaintiffs were granted an ex parte injunction on April 21 and applied for an interlocutory injunction restraining publication until trial on the basis of breach of

copyright or of confidence. Copyright was claimed in the scene itself, primarily as an artistic work either of sculpture or collage within section 4(1)(a) of the 1988 Act or as a work of artistic craftsmanship within section 4(1)(c).

It was not seriously arguable that the process of assembling disparate objects with members of the group had anything in common with sculpture. See *Breville Europe plc v Thorn EMI Domestic Appliances Ltd* ([1998] FSR 77), or artistic craftsmanship. See *George Heister Ltd v Restonville Upholstery (Lancs) Ltd* ([1976] AC 64) and *Shelley Films Ltd v Rex Features Ltd* ([1994] EMLR 134).

As for collage, a subject of copyright new to English law in the 1988 Act involved as an essential element the sticking of two or more things together. The instant composition was intrinsically ephemeral. Its continued existence being in the form of a photographic image and accordingly it was materially different from Carl Andre's bricks and examples of installation art generally. The plaintiffs' case based on

copyright was not sufficiently arguable to grant an injunction.

Mr Merriman's contentions that the unauthorised photograph was a copy of the official photograph, or that Mr Gallagher was the owner of the copyright in the unauthorised photograph as the person who created it within sections 9(1) and 1(1) were rejected.

In the alternative, Mr Merriman submitted that there was a seriously arguable case that the unauthorised photograph was taken in breach of confidentiality.

Mr Garnett submitted, correctly, that merely because a well known person tried to stop people taking photographs of him or her, it did not follow that any photograph taken was in breach of confidentiality.

That was far from this case. Although as a hotel guest *The Sun* photographer and others were lawfully at the scene, that did not mean they were free to take photographs. A photograph was different in kind, not merely degree, from a sketch which could lawfully have been drawn from memory. It was the photographic

record of the scene, the result of the shoot, that was intended to be confidential.

It was well arguable that the nature of the operation, together with the imposition of security measures made it an occasion of confidentiality, at any rate as regards photography.

It was arguable that *The Sun* photographer conducted himself surreptitiously. If so it was easy to infer he did so because he knew that photography was not permitted and that he was allowed to remain only on that basis.

A sufficient case of breach of confidence had been made out. Damages were not an adequate remedy for the plaintiffs.

The fact that millions of copies of the newspaper had contained the photograph was not of itself a reason to restrain the different type of publication arising from the poster offer. See *Gilbert v Star Newspaper Co Ltd* ([1994] 11 TLR 4). An interim injunction was granted to restrain further publication of the picture on the basis of breach of confidentiality.

Solicitors: Russell's Barrer & Co.

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Court cannot rewrite will

In re Jones, deceased
Jones v Midland Bank Trust Company Ltd and Others
Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Henry and Sir Patrick Russell
[Judgment April 17]

The unlawful killing of a testatrix by her son preventing him from benefiting under the terms of her will, did not entitle the court to rewrite the will, speculating as to what the testatrix's wishes might have been.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by the second defendant, Alan J. Perry, the person entitled to benefit on the deceased's intestacy, from the judgment on September 22, 1995, on a preliminary issue arising on an originating summons under the Forfeiture Act 1982 by the plaintiff, Robert Jones, the deceased's son, by Judge Weeks, QC, sitting as a judge of the High Court.

The point, a short one, was covered by authority which, even if not binding on the court, was of great persuasive force. The first, *In re Robertson*, deceased ([1963] 107 Sol J 318), was a decision of Mr Justice Kinnear. In that case Judge Weeks recognised was directly in point and, for practical purposes, indistinguishable. He declined to follow it.

The next was *In re Sinclair*, deceased ([1985] Ch 446, CA), a case concerning the analogous provision contained in section 18A(1)(b) of the Wills Act 1837, as amended by section 18 of the Administration of Justice Act 1982, that where a testator was divorced after having made his will, any devise or bequest to his former spouse should lapse.

In that case, Lord Justice Slade said (at p455) that it was not "open to the court to rewrite the

will by adding other specific contingencies to those clearly expressed in [the will] on the basis of more intelligent speculation as to what the testator might have intended if his marriage were to end in divorce". Judge Weeks was of the opinion that that case was distinguishable.

The third case, not cited to the judge, was *In re Estate of Jones*, deceased ([1992] SLT 1141), a decision of the Second Division of the Inner House of the Court of Session.

Judge Weeks based his judgment on necessary implication, stating: "Robert Jones killed his mother, and I think in the circumstances of this case the right inference to draw from the wording of the will is that the testatrix, if asked, would have said: 'Of course, if he is to murder me, then my estate is to go to... my nephews'."

That view was wrong. It involved a degree of speculation which was not permissible in the construction of wills. The event provided for by the deceased was clear and certain and it did not occur. The gift over could not take effect.

Mr Perry's appeal should be allowed and a declaration made that the executors hold the deceased's residuary estate upon trust for the next of kin on an intestacy of the deceased.

Lord Justice Henry and Sir Patrick Russell agreed.

Solicitors: Epney & Co, Telford; Irwin Mitchell, Sheffield; Amerys Parkes, Birmingham; Edge & Ellison, Birmingham.

Regina v East Sussex County Council, Ex parte T
Before Mr Justice Keene
[Judgment April 23]

In deciding what educational provision was suitable under section 396 of the Education Act 1993 regard was to be had to the individual character of the child in question rather than to the local authority's financial resources, although resources were relevant in deciding between different forms of suitable provision.

Mr Justice Keene so held in the Queen's Bench Division in allowing the application of T, by her mother and next friend, for certiorari to quash the decision of East Sussex County Council to reduce T's home tuition from five to three hours a week.

The applicant had been diagnosed as suffering from ME. She was unable to attend school for the great majority of the time and in May 1992 she began to receive five hours a week of home tuition from the local authority.

In early 1996 it became apparent that the government assessment for education spending by the local authority was around £3,000,000 short of expected spending and spending on home tuition was cut by three-quarters.

The applicant's parents were told in a meeting with local

authority officials on September 10, 1996 that only three hours of tuition a week would be provided because of financial constraints.

Section 396 of the 1993 Act, now section 19 of the Education Act 1996, provides: "(1) Each local education authority shall make arrangements for the provision of suitable full-time or part-time education at school or otherwise than at school for those children... who... may not for any period receive such suitable education unless such arrangements are made for them."

"(7) In this section 'suitable education', in relation to a child or young person, means efficient education suitable to his age, ability and aptitude and to any special educational needs he may have."

Mr Tim Kerr for the applicant; Mr Rabinder Singh for the local authority.

MR JUSTICE KEENE said that Mr Kerr had put his case in a number of different ways such as taking account of an irrelevant consideration or making a decision for improper purposes or irrationally. One could not, he suggested, take resources into account. Suitability in section 396 made no reference to local authority means. *R v Gloucestershire County Council, Ex parte Barry* (The Times March 21, 1977; [1997] 2

WLR 459) was distinguished by Mr Kerr on the basis that it concerned the construction of section 2(1) of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970. He submitted that the right to education was of a higher kind than the right, as in *Barry*, to a benefit.

In *Barry* Lord Clyde had said (at p475A): "The words 'necessary' and 'needs'... are not defined in the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970... In deciding whether there is a necessity to meet the needs the individual some criteria have to be provided. In the framing of the criteria to be applied it seems to me that the severity of the condition may have to be matched against the availability of resources."

His Lordship considered that the position under section 396 was different from that in *Barry*. Section 298(1) proposed a duty when issues arose but it was not left at large by Parliament.

Section 298(1) expressly provided a list for when suitability was to be determined. Suitability under section 396 was intended by Parliament as an individual concept related to the character of the particular child.

The term "suitable education" was to be used in a similar way throughout the 1993 Act. It must therefore be an objective test and not one that varied according to the

means of the provider; otherwise one could envisage the rights of the child being whittled away entirely.

Of course what amounted to suitable education in relation to a child's age and needs reflected what was being provided in schools in their area for children in that area with such aptitudes. Section 298 was not intended to give a child an advantage.

That was not the same thing as taking financial resources into account. The local authority was not allowed to do that.

That did not mean resources were wholly irrelevant under section 396. There might be more than one way of providing a suitable education in deciding which a local authority could properly have reference to financial resources.

In the present case financial considerations were taken into account. When it did that the local authority was not choosing between different arrangements. There was no provision to make up for the lost two hours.

It followed the local authority took into account an immaterial consideration in deciding what was suitable education and that decision could not stand. Moreover, the decision was arrived at in such a way as to be irrational.

Solicitors: Bates Wells & Braithwaite; Miss Samantha Goodbody, Brighton.

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ASSOCIATE EUROPEAN LEGAL COUNSEL

Additional election candidates

Following are amendments to the list of nominations carried in The Times on April 17.

A

ABERAVON
Beany, Capt (Beanus)
ALDERSHOT
Stevens, D (BNP)
Pendragon, A (Ind)
ALTRINCHAM & SALE WEST
Stephens, J (PL)
Ramsbottom, D (LD)
AMBER VALLEY
Delete Delivers, N (Loony)
ANTRIM EAST
Dick, T (C)
McAuley, Ms C (SF)
O'Connor, D (SDLP)
Mason, R (Ind)
McCann, Ms M (NLP)
Donaldson, W (PLP)
ANTRIM NORTH
McCarthy, J (SF)
Hinds, Ms B (N Women)
ANTRIM SOUTH
Cushin, H (SF)
Smyth, H (PLP)
ASHFIELD
Belshaw, R (BNP)
ASHFORD
Boden, R (Grn)
ASHFORD-UNDER-LYNE
Prince Cymal (Loony)
AYLESBURY
K Sheaf (Ref)
Delete Cooke, C (UK Ind)
Delete Thomson, R (Loony)

B

BARKING
Tolman, M (BNP)
BARNLEY EAST & WEST
Hyland, Ms J (SEF)
Capstick, K (Soc Lab)
BARROW AND FURNESS
Hazelton, J (PLP)
BASINGSTOKE
Selim, Dr E (Ind)
BATLEY & SPEN
Smith, R (BNP)
BATTERSEA
Marshall, J (Dream)
BEACONSFIELD
Matthews, R (B Ind)
Cooke, C (UK Ind)
Stony, C (CASC)
BECKENHAM
McAuley, J (NF)
BEDFORDSHIRE NORTH
Foley, F L (Ind C)
BELFAST EAST
Doughan, D (NIFT)
Bell, J (WP)
Dines, Ms S (C)
BELFAST NORTH
Treanor, P (WP)
BELFAST SOUTH
Boal, Ms M (C)
McDonnell, Dr A (SDLP)
Lynn, P (WP)
Cusack, N (Ind Lab)
Campbell, Ms A (N Women)
Irvine, D (PUP)
BELFAST WEST
Daly, Ms M (NLP)
Kennedy, L (HR)
Lowry, J (WP)
BETHNAL GREEN AND BOW
King, D (BNP)
Shelton, O (R Lab)
Hamid, A (Soc Lab)
BEVERLEY & HOLDERNES
Barley, D (UK Ind)
Delete: Green, C (NLP)
BEXLEYHEATH & CRAYFORD
Smith, Ms P (BNP)
BILLERICAY
Hughes, B (LC)
BIRKENHEAD
Cullen, M (Soc Lab)
BIRMINGHAM EDGBASTON
Campbell, D (BDP)
BIRMINGHAM ERDINGTON
Delete: Baines, M (PL)
BIRMINGHAM LADYWOOD
Carmichael, A (Nat Dem)
BIRMINGHAM NORTHFIELD
Axon, K (BNP)
BIRMINGHAM PERRY BARR
Windridge, L (BNP)
Panesar, A (Ain)
BIRMINGHAM SELLY OAK
Sherriff-Knowles, P (Loony)
BIRMINGHAM SPARKBROOK & SMALL HEATH
Clawley, A (Grn)
Patel, P (4th)
Bl, Ms S (Ind)
Syed, R M (PAYR)
Wren, C (Soc Lab)
Delete: Meads, L (NLP)
BLISY
Peacock, J (BNP)
Stokes, T (Ind)
Delete: Harrison, R (Ref)
BLACKBURN
Kahn, W (CSPS)
Carmichael-Grimshaw, Mrs M (KBF)
Wingfield, Ms T (Nat Dem)
Drummond, Mrs H (Soc Lab)
BLACKPOOL NORTH & FLEETWOOD
Ellis, J (BNP)
BLACKPOOL SOUTH
Delete: Cato, M (Loony)
BLAYDON
Rook, R (Ind Lab)
BOLTON NORTH EAST
Kelly, W (Soc Lab)
Delete: Tong, P (NLP)
BOLTON WEST
Kelly, Mrs D (Soc Lab)
Delete: Jump, H (NLP)
BOULTON
Glover, P (Soc)

C

BOURNEMOUTH EAST
Delete: Barratt, T (NLP)
BOURNEMOUTH WEST
Morse, J (BNP)
Delete: Springham, A (NLP)
BRACKNELL
Tomkins, J (N Lab)
BRADFORD WEST
Osborne, G (BNP)
Shah, S (Soc)
Khan, A (Soc Lab)
BRAINTREE
Abbott, J (Green Ref)
Nolan, M (New Way)
BRENT EAST
Warrillo, Ms C (Dream)
Jenkins, D (NLP)
Keable, S (Soc Lab)
BRENT NORTH
Clark, G (Dream)
BRENT SOUTH
Mahalidar, Ms A (NLP)
Howard, C (Dream)
Delete: Ahmed, M (NLP)
BRIGHTON KEMPTOWN
Williams, Ms F (Soc Lab)
Darlow, R (Dream)
BRIGHTON PAVILION
Card, A (Dream)
Huggan, R (Ind C)
Dobbs, B (SGC)
Delete: Draycott, C (NLP)

BRISTOL EAST

Williams, P (Soc Lab)
BRISTOL NORTH WEST
Horion, C (Ind Lab)
Shorner, G (Soc Lab)
BRISTOL SOUTH
Taylor, L (Glow)
Marshall, J (Soc)
BRISTOL WEST
Nurse, R (Soc Lab)
Slater, B (Ref)
BROMLEY & CHISLEHURST
Speed, Ms F (Grn)
Sonenman, M (NF)
BROXBORNE
Chetchnam, S (3rd)
Bruce, D (BNP)
BURNLEY
Delete: Oakley, R (Ref)
BURYTON
Sharp, K (Nat Dem)
BURY ST EDMUNDS
Ereife-Guy, M (Lab)

C

CALDER VALLEY
Jackson, C (BNP)
CAMBERWELL & PECKHAM
Barter, Ms J (Soc)
Ruddock, Ms A (Soc Lab)
Eames, C (WRP)
Delete: Ansong, P F (NLP)
CAMBRIDGE
Aihow, R (WRP)
CAMBRIDGESHIRE NORTH
Bennett, S (Soc Lab)
CAMBRIDGESHIRE NORTH WEST
Wyatt, B (UK Ind)
CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH
Lamb, C (Fair)
Delete: Coghill, C (Loony)
CANNOCK CHASE
Hurley, W (N Lab)
Conroy, M (Soc Lab)
CARDIFF CENTRAL
Burns, T (Soc Lab)
CARDIFF SOUTH & PENARTH
Foreman, J (N Lab)
Shepherd, M (Soc)
CARLISLE
Mayrho, C (LD)
CARSHALTON AND WALLINGTON
Riche, G (BNP)
Cook, G (UK Ind)
CASTLE POINT
Kendall, Mrs L D (Ind)
CHARWOOD
Palmer, M (BNP)
CHATHAM & AYLESFORD
Harding, A (UK Ind)
CHEADLE
Delete: Harris, A (PL)
CHELTENHAM
Hanks, K (Loony)
Brighouse, Ms S (NLP)
Harris, Ms A (PL)
CHESTER, CITY OF
Gerrard, J (WCC)
CHESTERFIELD
Scarth, N (Ind OAP)
CHICHESTER
Smith, C (Lab)
CHINGFORD AND WOODFORD GREEN
Gould, A (BNP)
CHIPPING BARNET
Dirksen, M D (NLP)
CITIES OF LONDON AND WESTMINSTER
Wharton, Ms P (Barts)
Sadovitz, J (Dream)
Webster, G (Hemp)
Walsh, N (Loony)
CLYDESDALE
Smith, K (BNP)
Delete: Barnett, G (NLP)
COATBRIDGE AND CHRYSTON
Delete: Henderson, M (NLP)
COLCHESTER
Basker, Ms L (NLP)
COLNE VALLEY
Brooke, A (Soc Lab)
CONWY
Bradley, R (Ain LD)
CORRY
Bence, Ms J (NLP)
CORNWALL NORTH
Bolitho, J (Meb Ker)
Cresswell, N (NLP)
CORNWALL SOUTH EAST
Harley, Ms M (NLP)
Dunbar, P (Meb Ker)
COVENTRY NORTH EAST
Klawell, C (Dream)
Khamis, H (Soc Lab)
COVENTRY NORTH WEST
Francis, L (Dream)
Spencer, D (Soc Lab)
COVENTRY SOUTH
Nellis, D (Soc)
Lewman, J (BNP)
Bradshaw, Ms A-M (Dream)
CRAWLEY
Kahn, A (JP)
Delete: Bradshaw, R (NLP)
CREYDON CENTRAL
Woolcott, J (UK Ind)
CREYDON SOUTH
Perguson, P (BNP)
Samuel, M (Choice)
CUMBERNAULT & KILSYTH
McEwan, K (SSA)
Delete: Mair, P (NLP)
CUNNINGHAM NORTH
McDaid, Ms L (Soc Lab)
CUNNINGHAM SOUTH
Edwin, K (Soc Lab)
Martlew, A (Ref)

D

DAGENHAM
Binding, W (BNP)
Dawson, R (Ind)
Hipperson, M (Nat Dem)
DARTFORD
McHale, P (BNP)
Pollitt, J (Ch D)
Homden, P (FDP)
DAVENTRY
Gordon, J (LD)
DERBY SOUTH
Delete: Bereny, A (Loony)
Delete: Waters, J (Pro Life)
Delete: Crompton, J (UK Ind)
DERBYSHIRE SOUTH
Crompton, Dr E (UK Ind)
DERBYSHIRE WEST
Kyslum, M (Ind BB)
Meynell, G (Ind Green)
Delves, N (Loony)
DEVON EAST
Needs, G (Nat Dem)
DEVON NORTH
Delete: Langmead, T (Loony)
DEWSBURY
Taylor, Ms F (BNP)
Daniel, D (Ind Lab)
DON VALLEY
Johnson, C (PL)
Ball, N (Soc Lab)
DONCASTER CENTRAL
Kenny, M (Soc Lab)
DONCASTER NORTH
Swan, M (AS Lab)
DORSET WEST
Bygraves, R (Lab)
DOWN NORTH
Morris, J (N Women)
Mooney, R (NLP)
DOWN SOUTH
McKeon, R (NLP)
Delete: O'Leary, D (NLP)
DUDLEY NORTH
Cartwright, G (NF)
Darby, S (Nat Dem)
Altherton, M (Soc Lab)
DULWICH & WEST NORWOOD
Rizz, Captain (Rizz)
DUMCAPTAIN
Robertson, L (SSA)
Delete: McKillop, J (NLP)
DUNDEE EAST
Duke, H (SSA)
DUNDEE WEST
Ward, Ms M (SSA)
Delete: Kennedy, H (NLP)

E

EALING ACTON & SHEPHERD'S BUSH
Edwards, W (Ch P)
Beasley, C (Glow)
Danon, P (PL)
Gilbert, J (Soc Lab)
EALING SOUTHALL
Brar, H (Soc Lab)
EASTINGTON
Colborn, S (SPGB)
EAST HAM
Smith, C (BNP)
Hardy, G (Nat Dem)
Khan, I (Soc Lab)
EAST LUTHER
Delete: Calligaro, R (NLP)
EASTBOURNE
Delete: Grenville, M (NLP)
EASTWOOD
Delete: Sutcliffe, R (NLP)
EDINBURGH CENTRAL
Benson, M (Ind Dem)
Delete: Reid, D (NLP)
EDINBURGH EAST & MUSSELBURGH
Delete: Irvine, M (NLP)
Delete: Coyne, M (Grn)
EDINBURGH NORTH & LEITH
Douglas-Reid, P (NLP)
Brown, G (SSA)
Delete: Mallin, P (NLP)
EDINBURGH PENTLANDS
Dunn, B (NLP)
EDINBURGH SOUTH
Dunn, B (NLP)
Delete: Pringle, T (NLP)
EDINBURGH WEST
Jack, A (AS)
EDMONTON
Cord, B (BNP)
ENFIELD NORTH
Griffin, Ms J (BNP)
ENFIELD SOUTHGATE
Storkey, A (Ch P)
Malakous, A (Mab)
Delete: Swain, B (UK Ind)
EPFING FORD
Henderson, P (BNP)
EREWASH
Simmons, M (Soc Lab)
ESHER & WALTON
Kay, Ms S (Dream)
EXETER
Meakin, J (UKPP)

F

FALMOUTH & CAMBORNE
Geach, J (Ind Lab)
Astbury, J (BNP)
Bradshaw, Ms A-M (Dream)
FAREHAM
O'Brien, W (Ind No)
Delete: Chapman, M (UK Ind)
FAVERSHAM & KENT MID
Morgan, Ms C (IGRLNSP)
FELTHAM & HESTON
Delete: Sagar, S (UK Ind)
FIFE CENTRAL
Rees-Mogg, J (C)
Delete: Murray, S (C)
FOLKESTONE & HYTHE
Delete: Mair, P (NLP)
Segal, E (Soc)
FOREST OF DEAN
Palmer, C (21st Cent)
Morgan, G (Ind Dem)
Ponter, S (Ind F)

G

GALLOWAY & UPPER NITHSDALE
Wood, R (Ind)
Delete: Kerr, P
GILLINGHAM
Jury, C (BNP)
GLASGOW ANNIESLAND
Pringle, T (NLP)
Bonnar, W (SSA)
Delete: Dunachie, E (NLP)
GLASGOW BAILLIESTON
McVicar, J (SSA)
Delete: Dunachie, E (NLP)
GLASGOW CATHCART
Stenson, E (SSA)
Delete: Hastie, M (NLP)
GLASGOW GOVAN
White, J (BNP)
Abbas, Z J (SCU)
Badar, I (SLI)
Paton, P (SLU)
McCombes, A (SSA)
GLASGOW KELVIN
Green, A (SSA)
Vann, V (SPGB)
GLASGOW MARVILL
Baker, Ms M (SSA)
Johnstone, S (SEP)
GLASGOW POLLOK
Sheridan, T (SSA)
Delete: Hall, A (NLP)
GLASGOW RUTHERGLEN
Kane, Ms R (UK Ind)
Delete: Kennedy, G (NLP)
GLASGOW SHETTLESTON
Currie, R (BNP)
McVicar, C (SSA)
Graham, J (WRP)
Delete: Gilmore, D (NLP)
GLASGOW SPRINGBURN
Lawson, J (SSA)
GOSPORT
Ellie, P (Ind)

H

HACKNEY NORTH & STOKE NEWINGTON
Tolson, D (None)
Lovebuck, L (Rain Ref)
Delete: Goldberg, M (NLP)
HACKNEY SOUTH & SHOREDITCH
Cullow, C (BNP)
Goldman, M (Comm Bri)
Bets, T (N Lab)
Goldberg, M (NLP)
Rogers, B (WRP)
HALESOWEN & ROWLEY REGIS
Meads, Ms K (Nat Dem)
HALTON
Alley, J (Rep GB)
HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM
Ellison, A (CASC)
Johnson-Smith, N (Lab)
HAMPSTEAD EAST
Foster, I (Grn)
HAMPSTEAD NORTH EAST
Berry, C (UK Ind)
HAMPSTEAD NORTH WEST
Anson, H (Bypass)
Dodd, B (Ind)
HAMPSTEAD & HIGHGATE
Carroll, R (Dream)
Harris, J (Hum)
HARLOW
Bowles, J (BNP)
HARROGATE & KNARESBOROUGH
Blackburn, J (LC)
HARWICH
Knight, R (CRP)
Hastings & Rye
Delete: Moor, I (NLP)
HAVANT
Awral, Major (BIPF)
HAYES & HARLINGTON
Parrow, D (ANP)
Hutchings, J (Ind)
HAZELE GROVE
Giffin-Flood, D (Ind Hum)
HENDON
Taylor, Ms S (WRP)
HENLEY
Hilbert, T (Whig)
HERTFORD & STORTFORD
Speller, S (Lab)
Delete: Harbottle, D (Lab)
HERTFORDSHIRE SOUTH WEST
Delete: Fitzsimons, B (UK Ind)
HITCHIN & HARPENDEN
Horizon, J (Soc)
HOLBOURN & ST PANCRAS
Rosenthal, M (Dream)
Rice-Evans, P (EUP)
Smith, S (JP)
Bedding, T (NLP)
Quintavalle, B (PL)
Conway, W (WRP)
HORNCHURCH
Trueman, Miss J (Third)
HORNSEY & WOOD GREEN
Silkorski, P (Soc Lab)
HORSHAM
Corbould, M (FEP)
HOVE
Furness, J (Ind C)
HUNTINGDON
Hufford, Ms V (Ch D)
Robertson, P (Ind)
Delete: Sutcliffe, D (Loony)
HYNDEN
Brown, J (IAC)
ILFORD NORTH
Wilson, P (BNP)

I

ILFORD SOUTH
Owens, A (BNP)
Hodges, D (Ref)
Ramsey, B (Soc Lab)
INVERNESS EAST, NAIRN & LOCHABER
Hart, D (Ch U)
ISLE OF WIGHT
Rees, H (Ind Isl)
Daly, C (NLP)
Eveleigh, J (Rain Isl)
ISLINGTON SOUTH & FINSBURY
Laws, A (ACA)
Basarik, E (Ind)
Creese, M (NLP)
Delete: Quintavalle, B (PL)
JARROW
LeBlond, A (Ind Lab)
Blissett, J (SPGB)
KENSINGTON & CHELSEA
Oliver, G (UKPP)
Hajima, Ms S (NLP)
Sullivan, P (Dream)
Parliament, P (Hear)
Bear, E (Teddy Bear)
Delete: MacLaughlin, C (Loony)
KETERING
Le Carpenter, Mrs R (NLP)
KINGSTON & SURBITON
Port, C (Dream)
Burns, P (UK Ind)
Leighton, M (NLP)
KINGSWOOD
Hart, P (BNP)
Nicolson, A (Scrapit)
KNOWLES NORTH & SEFTON EAST
Jones, C (Soc Lab)
L
LAGAN VALLEY
McCarthy, F (WP)
LANCASHIRE WEST
Carter, M (Ref)
Hill, D (Home Rule)
LEEDS CENTRAL
Hill, C (Soc)
Rix, D (Soc Lab)
Martin-Eagle, D (Consti)
Mallone, R (Fellowship)
LEEDS EAST
Parish, L (Ref)
LEEDS NORTH EAST
Egan, J (Soc Lab)
LEEDS NORTH WEST
Toone, R (PL)
Duffy, D (Ronnie)
Lamb, R (Soc Lab)
LEEDS WEST
Delete: Thurston, R (NLP)
LEICESTER EAST
Slack, N (Glow)
Siddall, S (Soc Lab)
LEICESTER SOUTH
Stille, K (Nat Dem)
Dooher, J (Soc Lab)
LEICESTER WEST
Belshaw, A (BNP)
Potter, C (Nat Dem)
Nicholls, Ms J (Soc)
Roberts, D (Soc Lab)
LEICESTER NORTH WEST
Delete: White, R (Loony)
LEOMINSTER
Haycock, J (BNP)
LEWES
Delete: Shaw, P (NLP)
LEWISHAM EAST
Rizz, Captain (Dream)
Croucher, R (NLP)
LEWISHAM WEST
Long, N (Soc Lab)
LEWISHAM DEPTFORD
Mullrenan, J (Soc Lab)
Delete: Archer, R (NLP)
LEYTON & WANSTEAD
Mian, A (Ind)
LINLITHGOW
Delete: Jamieson, W (Loony)
LIVERPOOL GASTON
Parson, J (NLP)
Nolan, S (SEP)
LIVERPOOL RIVERSTIDE
Braid, D (MRAC)
Wilson, Ms C (Soc)
LIVERPOOL WALTON
Mahmood, L (Soc)
LIVERPOOL WAVERLEY
Corkhill, C (WRP)
LIVINGSTON
Culbert, M (SPGB)
Delete: Black, G (NLP)
LYNNE
Willcock, J (Soc Lab)
LONDON DERRY EAST
Gallen, C (NLP)
Higgs, R (Ind)
LOUGHBOROUGH
Delete: Bigger, J (UK Ind)
LUDLOW
Andrews, T (Grn)
LUTON NORTH
Custace, A (NLP)
LUTON SOUTH
Perrin, Ms C (NLP)

M

MAIDENHEAD
Ardley, K (Glow)
MAIDSTONE & THE WEALD
Cleator, Ms M (Soc Lab)
MANCHESTER CENTRAL
Rigby, T (Comm Lge)
Rafferty, F (Soc Lab)
MANCHESTER GORTON
Wogman, T (Soc Lab)
MANCHESTER WITHINGTON
Parson, J (NLP)
White, Ms J (Soc)
MERTHYR TYDFIL & RHYNNEY
Cowdell, O (Lab)
MIDDLESBROUGH
Delete: Curry, T (UK Ind)

N

MILTON KEYNES SOUTH WEST
Delete: Morris, T (PL)
MITCHAM & MORDEN
Dixon, N (ACC)
Miller, L (BNP)
Krishnapillai, V (Ind)
MOLE VALLEY
Burley (Ind CRP)
MORECOMBE & LUNSDALE
Greenwell, Mrs J (LD)
Walne, D (NLP)
Delete: Bracey, D (LD)
MOTHERWELL & WISHAW
Herriot, C (Soc Lab)
N
NEATH
Marks, H (LCP)
NEWBURY
Howse, Ms K (Soc Lab)
NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME
Rea, Ms B (Soc Lab)
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
East & Wallend
Ley, M (Comm Bri)
Carpenter, Ms B (Soc Lab)
NEWRY & ARMAGH
Whitcroft, P (All)
NORFOLK MID
Frans, S (LD)
Delete: Williams, A R (LD)
NORFOLK NORTH
Delete: Mills, D (NLP)
NORWICH SOUTH
Marks, H (LCP)
NORWICH NORTH
Delete: Hendy, C (Ref)
SOUTH SHIELDS
Wilburn, I (Shields)
SOUTHAMPTON ITCHEN
Rose, G (Soc Lab)
Marsh, G (Soc)
SOUTHPORT
Middleton, M (Nat Dem)
SOUTHWAKE NORTH & BERNARDSLEY
Davidson, M (BNP)
Grant, J (Comm Lge)
Ingwinson, Ms I (Nat Dem)
SPELTHORNE
Delete: Rea, D (Loony)
STAFFORD
May, A (Loony)
Delete: Holt, D (Loony)
STIRLING
Olsen, E (Value)
STOCKPORT
Southern, G (Soc Lab)
STOKE-ON-TRENT CENTRAL
Coleman, M (BNP)
STOKE-ON-TRENT SOUTH
Scott, Mrs S (BNP)
Batkin, S (C)
Micklethorn, Ms A (Lib)
Lawrence, B (Nat Dem)
STONE
Grice, Ms D (NLP)
STRATFORD
Chalk, G (C)
STRATFORD-ON-AVON
Stacey, S (Lab)
Marcus, S (SFDC)
Delete: Maden, R (Lab)
STRATHELVIN & BEARDSDEN
Fisher, Ms J (NLP)
STREATHAM
Delete: Harper, C L (UK Ind)
SUFFOLK CENTRAL & IPSWICH NORTH
Bennell, Ms S (Ind)
Delete: Caulfield, S (Ref)
SUFFOLK COASTAL
Kaplan, Ms F (NLP)
SUFFOLK SOUTH
Holland, Ms A (NLP)
De Chair, C (Ref)
SURREY EAST
Bartram, Ms S (NLP)
SURREY MID
Delete: Willmick, R (NLP)
Delete: Berry, P (Loony)
SUTTON & CHEAM
Wright, Ms D (NLP)
SUTTON COLDFIELD
Delete: Berry, R (NLP)
SWANSEA EAST
Job, R (Soc)
SWANSEA WEST
Proctor, D (Soc Lab)
SWINDON SOUTH
Charman, R (Route 66)

O

OLDFIELD
McDonald, I (D Nat)
OLD BEXLEY & SIDCUP
Tyndall, Ms V (BNP)
OLDHAM EAST & SADDLEWORTH
Dalling, J (NLP)
Smith, J (Soc Lab)
OLDHAM WEST & ROYTON
Dalling, S (NLP)
Choudhury, G (Soc Lab)
ORKEBY & SHETLAND
Robertson, A (Ind)
ORPINGTON
Delete: Veero, R (Loony)
OXFORD EAST
Harper Jones W (Embryo)
Mythragan, P (Anti-Mab)
Delete: Harper Jones D (PL)
OXFORD WEST & ABINGDON
Rose, J (LGR)
Buckton, R (UK Ind)

O

OLDFIELD
McDonald, I (D Nat)
OLD BEXLEY & SIDCUP
Tyndall, Ms V (BNP)
OLDHAM EAST & SADDLEWORTH
Dalling, J (NLP)
Smith, J (Soc Lab)
OLDHAM WEST & ROYTON
Dalling, S (NLP)
Choudhury, G (Soc Lab)
ORKEBY & SHETLAND
Robertson, A (Ind)
ORPINGTON
Delete: Veero, R (Loony)
OXFORD EAST
Harper Jones W (Embryo)
Mythragan, P (Anti-Mab)
Delete: Harper Jones D (PL)
OXFORD WEST & ABINGDON
Rose, J (LGR)
Buckton, R (UK Ind)

P

PAISLEY SOUTH
Clerkin, S (SSA)
PERTH
Delete: Glover, R (NLP)
PETERBOROUGH
Delete: Rose, B (Loony)
PLYMOUTH DEVONPORT
Ebbs, S (Nat Dem)
Delete: Jamieson, W (Loony)
PLYMOUTH SUTTON
Kearney, K (Plymouth)
PONTFRID
Griffiths, R (Comm Bri)
Moore, A (NLP)
Skelly, P (Soc Lab)
POOLE
Rosta, Ms J (NLP)
POPLAR & CANNING TOWN
Tyndall, J (BNP)
Joseph, Ms J (Soc Lab)
PORTSMOUTH NORTH
Becks, C (Wessex Reg)
PRESTON
Delete: Bostock, J (UK Ind)
PUTNEY
Poole, Ms A (Beaut)
Van Braam, D (Ren Dem)
Yardly, M (Spis All)
Beige, L (Sian)

R

READING EAST
Packer, Ms B (BNP)
READING WEST
Dell, I (BNP)
REGENTS PARK & KENSINGTON NORTH
Sadowitz, Ms D (Dream)
REIGATE
Higgs, R (Ind)
RICHMOND PARK
Delete: Wedgwood D D (UK Ind)
Davies, P (Dream)
ROCHDALE
Bergin, G (BNP)
Mohammed, S (IZB Party)
RODMFORD
Carey, M (BNP)
ROSENDALE & DARWEN
Wardman, A (BNP)
RITSLIP NORTHWOOD
Griffin, Ms C (NLP)
RUSHCLIFFE
Maszewska, Ms A (NLP)
Moore, J (UK Ind)

S

SAFFRON WALDEN
Tyler, B (Ind)
SALE
Cragen, Ms S (Dream)
SALE NORTH
Watts, D (Lab)
SALE SOUTH
Watts, D (Lab)
Delete: Steele, (Ref)
SALE WEST
Watts, D (Lab)
Delete: Steele, (Ref)

T

TATTON
Muir, J (Albion)
Bishop, D (Byro)
Hill, S (Ind S)
Nicholas, R (Ind)
Kinsey, S (Ind)
Price, J (Juice)
Penhaul, B (Miss M)
TAUNTON
Andrews, L (BNP)
TAYFORS NORTH
Delete: Glazier, J (NLP)
TEIGNBRIDGE
Golding, Mrs L (Dream)
THANET NORTH
Haines, Ms J (UK Ind)
THURROCK
Compobassi, P (UK Ind)
TIVERTON & HONITON
Charles, D (Nat Dem)
TOTTING
Boddington, P (BEAR)
Bailey-Bond, D (Dream)
Husband, Mrs A (Ref)
Delete: Huntingdon, M (UK Ind)
TORBAY
Wild, P (Dream)
Delete: Rowe, J (Loony)
TORTON
Venmore, C (Loc C)
Cook, Ms P (Ref)
Golding, J (Dream)

U

ULSTER MID
Donnelly, Mrs M (WP)
Murray, Ms M (NLP)
UPPER BARN
Price, B (C)
French, T (WP)
Lyons, J (NLP)
UKSIDGE
Leonard, J (Soc)
Delete: Griffin C (NLP)
V
VALE OF YORK
Pelton, T (Soc Dem)
Mcintosh, Miss A (C)
VAUXHALL
Collins, S (Grn)
Driver, I (Soc Lab)
Headcar, R (SPGB)

W

WALSALL NORTH
Humphreys, A (NP)
Pitt, M (Ind)
WALSALL SOUTH
Meades, Mrs L (NLP)
WANSLEY
Murphy, D (Lab)
Best, Dr N (Grn)
Delete: Thompson, J (Lab)
WANDSWICK
House P (Loony)
Lincoln, Ms S (NLP)
Hunt, T (UK Ind)
WANTAGE
Kennell, Ms M (Grn)
Tolison, Miloslausky, Count M (UK Ind)
WARRINGTON SOUTH
Ross, S (NLP)
WARWICK & LEAMINGTON
Baptie, P (Grn)
Gibbs, M (EDP)
McCarthy, R (NLP)
Warwick, G (UK Ind)
WARWICKSHIRE NORTH
Moorecroft, I (Bert)
Cooke, C (UK Ind)
WATFORD
Davis, L (NLP)
WAVENEY
Clark, N (Ind)
WEALDEN
Cragg, P (NLP)
English, Mrs M (UK Ind)
WELLINGBOROUGH
Lowry, Ms A (NLP)
Elwood, A (UK Ind)
WELLS
Royse, Ms L (NLP)
WELWYN HATFIELD
Harold, Ms H (PL)
Cox, E (Justice)
WEST BROMWICH WEST
Silvester, R (Lab Change)
Edwards, S (Nat Dem)
WEST HAM
Francis, K (BNP)
Rainbow, J (Dream)
Jug, T (Loony)
WESTBURY

FOOTBALL: HODDLE QUICK TO APPRECIATE EMERGING TALENT OF NATIONAL TEAM'S YOUNG AMBASSADOR

England bank on a Neville in credit

Oliver Holt, football correspondent, meets a defender who, it seems, can do no wrong

There is a story about Gary Neville that spread like wildfire through the ranks of the journalists who follow the England football team but was barely reported. It concerns an event that happened almost a year ago, and is still related with the sense of disbelief and wonderment usually reserved for the most salacious of gossip.

Like all the best stories, it has a shock value capable of shaking one's perceptions of the sport and its protagonists. Like most of the sleaziest episodes that footballers get themselves dragged into, it happened on an England trip abroad and, to complete the picture, a photographer was on hand to provide evidence.

In fact, the photographer was integral to the story. A touch overweight and loaded down with cameras, he was toiling his way along the Great Wall of China with those among the England party on last spring's ill-fated tour of China and Hong Kong who had bothered to make the trip. Neville, sensing he was in discomfort, suddenly appeared at his shoulder and offered to carry his cameras for the remainder of the walk.

That is it. Short and sweet. A young England footballer behaving with undue courtesy towards a member of the media he did not know and, while he was at it, impressing everyone with his articulacy, common-sense and maturity. It is sensationalist, admittedly, stretching credibility, perhaps, but those who were there swear it is not apocryphal.

Yesterday, at Bisham Ab-

bey, as England prepared for the World Cup qualifying tie against Georgia tomorrow, Neville was at it again, causing more raised eyebrows by refusing to hide behind clichés, insisting on straight answers and generally exuding a level of modesty most unbecomingly for someone who has quickly established himself as one of the most accomplished defenders in the FA Carling Premiership.

More pertinently, perhaps, as England's attempts to qualify for the World Cup in France next year intensify, Neville, who will earn his eighteenth cap against Georgia, has retained the boyish enthusiasm for playing for his country that so many of the younger players seem to lose amid the torrents of club matches and the mounting commercial pressures that rest on their callow shoulders.

"I know people are talking about missing our summer tour to France this summer," Neville, 22, said, "but we are playing Brazil, Italy and France — of course I want to go. If I am fit and selected, I will be playing for England in the summer. You cannot play roulette, can't say 'I will miss this tournament or this game' or 'I will pull out of that game'."

Alex Ferguson has never said to me that he is going to pull me out of an England game. If a young player needs a rest at Manchester United, he will be given a rest and we will put our trust in him to make that choice. If I am in the England squad, he doesn't even have a conversation about it. I



Neville, pictured at Bisham Abbey yesterday, displays a modesty and manners all too rare among his peers

just go. He does not have any problem in any of us playing for England. He wants us to play."

When pressed, he spoke about the variety of positions he has filled successfully for his country. He has played as a conventional right back in a four-man defence, as a right-sided centre back in a back three and as a wing back in a back five. He has impressed the England manager, Glenn Hoddle, in every role, but still Neville is not satisfied.

"Wing back was my least favourite, really," he said. "I can beat players going forward, but there are better players than me in that position. I think Petrus and McAteer are probably the best in the Premiership. I wish I could get myself forward more and I have been told I have got to be more positive, but I think sometimes I have got this mentality that I am a defender first and a footballer second. My brother, Phil, is good at making the decision of when

to go forward and when not to. I think maybe I am a bit too cautious."

Neville, a credit to the upbringing techniques of Ferguson, was full of praise for his United manager and for the influence exerted over all the club's young players by Eric Cantona, the Frenchman whose talents are supposed to be on the wane. For praise for Neville, of course, you have to look elsewhere.

"I don't agree with him at all about him not being comfort-

able going forward," Hoddle said. "Look at the cross he provided for Shearer's goal against Scotland in Euro 96. Look at the piece of skill he came up with when he flicked the ball past Bjornne to set up Manchester United's third goal at Anfield."

"He has got a very mature head and he is an accomplished player at a very young age with a lot of experience under his belt. He is being nice and modest but, within himself, he is a very confident lad."

Splitting under-19 contest pays off

By John Goodbody

THE move to split the Under-19 schools football tournament into two competitions was justified by two pulsating finals at The Hawthorns yesterday.

These competitions probably generate more passion than any other secondary schools event in Britain. Next season, more than 2,000 schools and colleges are expected to enter.

The tournament has been divided in two because of the domination of the sixth-form colleges, which are able to field a greater number of older boys than the schools.

In the colleges section final yesterday, Cardinal Newman, Preston, beat Colchester 1-0, while, in the competition catering for schools, Farmington Watford and Monkseaton HS, Whitley Bay, shared the trophy after a 0-0 draw.

Cardinal Newman possessed Robert Haworth, the most skilful boy on display in the colleges final. His deft dribbling frequently split the Colchester defence. However, Cardinal Newman were wayward in their finishing and Colchester nearly equalised three minutes from time when Swarbrick had to clear off the goalkeepers.

The decisive goal came in the 38th minute when McCann drove home a free kick from the edge of the area. The schools final was taut, going to the end of extra time without a score, but with innumerable near-misses and splendid saves. The problem was neither team had the composure nor the penetration near goal.

Inability to go distance is downfall for Shilton

By Our Sports Staff

PETER SHILTON, the former England goalkeeper, has had his contract with Leyton Orient terminated by the club because he cannot kick the ball far enough. Shilton, 47, played ten times for Orient in the Nationwide League third division after joining them from West Ham United last November.

Tommy Taylor, the Orient manager, said: "Peter is magnificent for his age and, if he could kick the ball, I would keep him. It sounds silly, but you need a goalkeeper to kick it into your opponents' penalty box to make chances in the third division."

Steve Shorey, the Orient chief scout, added: "Kicking could be one of the reasons, but I wouldn't like to say anything against a player who has served the game so well as other clubs might be interested in him. We have only one game left and we have no need for the services of Peter. He was first choice until he got injured and we brought in Paul Hyde from England Under-21 goalkeeper."

Shilton, who made his 1,000th Football League appearance against Brighton while at Orient, will now head to Hong Kong.

The Football League has refused a request from BSkyB to switch the third division match between Hereford United and Brighton on Saturday to live. Hereford and Brighton, the bottom clubs, each has 46 points and will be playing for League survival at Edgar Street in front of a sell-out crowd of 8,800.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

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WEST NORFOLK (Fakenham): Huns: 1, Rough Edge (W Wales, 4-5 fav) 7 ran

CRICKET: UNHERALDED BOWLER DELIVERS VICTORY FOR WARWICKSHIRE WITH FIVE-WICKET DISPLAY

Brown rips rivals apart at the seams

By JOHN THICKNESSE

WORCESTER (Warwickshire won toss): Warwickshire (2pts) beat Worcestershire by six wickets

TURNING up was about all Warwickshire needed to do to win their opening group A Benson and Hedges Cup match at New Road, Worcester, batting pitifully, were dispatched for 96 in 37 overs and, by 5pm, had been buried by their fellow Midlandsers.

It was a good toss for Andy Moles to win, but not so good that Dougie Brown, 27, normally fourth seamer, should take five for 31 — two wickets better than his previous competition best — after taking the new ball and bowling his ten overs in one spell.

That Stuart Lampitt topped scored from No 9 and the last-wicket stand was worth more than double the next highest says all there is to say about the Worcestershire batting. Accurately as Brown bowled, the home side would expect to score 180 to 200 if they could have another go at it.

But with little distinction in reply, Warwickshire were 36 for four by the fourteenth over, Lampitt and Newport sharing the wickets.

But Worcestershire had too few runs to play with and, as soon as Ostler and Penney applied themselves, Warwickshire cruised home. They had 19.4 overs in hand when Ostler made the winning hit.

Brown's figures were all the more unexpected for his opening offering being confidently pulled for six by Rhodes, who

had so much time for the stroke that he seemed to be waiting on the back foot for several seconds. Within a couple of overs, however, the innings began to fall to pieces. Ostler taking a sharp low catch in the gully from a sliced square drive by Weston.

Not only did Worcestershire fail to recover, but an hour and a quarter passed before a batsman even penetrated double figures. Solanki becoming the first to do so when he pulled Welch for two with his team in irreversible decline at 39 for six.

There was movement both through the air and off the pitch for the four Warwickshire seamers. In Brown's case mainly in from the off side off the ground. Worcestershire, naturally, would also have fielded had Moody won the toss. Even making allowances for the help the bowlers got, however, it was a woeful piece of batting, not least in stroke selection.

When Rhodes, square-cutting, was bowled off the inside edge in Brown's third over, the warning lights should have been flashing in the Worcestershire dressing-room. But it seemed that Moody could not have been watching. Twenty minutes later, in Brown's fifth over, Moody was out in much the same way, bowled via the inside edge by what, to a man of 6ft 6in, was a good length ball while attempting a back-foot force through extra cover.

Brown's next victim, Spirling, leg-before for nought at 28 for four, was a rarity — a



Brown, whose spell with the new ball put Worcestershire on the way to defeat, appeals for leg-before against Hick

batsman genuinely beaten by pace and movement off a full attacking length. But the next two were no more nor less than giveaways and Hick, on whom his side was so dependent, was one of them.

Rhythmically as Donald bowled in a six-over spell with the new ball, during which there were four maidens, Hick was seeing the ball early enough to leave five balls alone in one over. Yet directly Welch replaced Donald, for

the thirteenth over, Hick incomprehensibly tried to hit his second ball over the top for four, only to drag it to mid-on. It was not a stroke calculated to recommend him to David Lloyd, the watching England coach.

Nevertheless, in the next over Leathdale capped it. With Worcestershire in the soup at 33 for five, he aimed to square-cut a ball from Brown that had he left it, John Hampshire would have called

a wide. Instead, he edged it to the wicketkeeper.

Solanki and Haynes added 19 for the seventh wicket, but it was only when Newport joined Lampitt for the tenth that conditions and bowling were put into perspective. Despite Donald bowling four of the 12 overs that it took them to add 40, Warwickshire had to call up Giles, the slow left-hander, to break the stand. Lampitt slicing him to backward point.

India have sought the help of two leading experts from New Zealand to improve their lifeless pitches. Keith McAuliffe, director of the New Zealand sports turf institute, and Russell Smith, head groundsman at Fitzherbert Park, in Palmerston North, are visiting cricketing centres in India to conduct soil tests, study the methods adopted to prepare pitches and suggest measures that might be used to improve them.

Boon provides bedrock for renewed ambition

Simon Wilde, who is following Durham's Benson and Hedges campaign this week, sees them get off to a promising start against Nottinghamshire

Victory is not a word that often appears in the vocabulary of Durham cricketers, but they may be uttering the word today after their Benson and Hedges Cup group B match was carried over when the fourth rain interruption ended yesterday's play at 5pm.

Nottinghamshire will resume this morning on 94 for three, 26 overs into their reply to Durham's workmanlike 230 for five — a total that may just prove sufficient on a typically slow Trent Bridge pitch. With Robinson, Dowman and Johnson out, Nottinghamshire will have to play well to reach their target.

In view of the fact that they have won only once against county opposition since the start of the 1996 season, Durham hardly go into matches

overburdened with self-belief, but already there are signs that David Boon, their new captain, has already started the process of strengthening spines.

With Nottinghamshire's assortment of seamers moving the ball around, the first-wicket partnership of 82 between Lewis and Collingwood gave Durham just the steady start they needed.

They both fell within the space of four overs, Collingwood bowled by the tidy Bates one short of a deserved half-century and Lewis caught leg-before by Archer for 38. Boon came in

to act as the rock on which the rest of the innings was built, the more important as Morris was missing, nursing the injured thumb that he suffered in the opening championship match at Old Trafford last week.

He lifted Tolley for one effortless six over mid-wicket, but generally contented himself with working the ball around. His unbeaten 64 — his third in four innings for his new county — occupied 73 balls but more importantly he saw to it that he stayed until the end of the 50 overs, enabling the likes of Roseberry, Speak and Speight to play their most

natural game. Roseberry, who spent the winter trying to discover form that had become as elusive as the Holy Grail, showed one or two classy touches, only for it to go to his head.

He danced down the pitch once too often to Bates and was comfortably stumped by Noon. Noon later brought Speak's highest innings for his new club to an end with a fine running catch from a top-edged pull. Nottinghamshire could have done with Robinson dropping anchor in the style of Boon, but he was strangely unfaithful to his character,

carving ambitiously at a ball outside off stump from the lively Bates and giving Speight the easier of his two catches.

Dowman looked good until he got out, but a more significant loss was that of Johnson, who tried to work the ball extravagantly to leg and was bowled by Boling. Much today may depend on Archer, who played elegantly through the on side in moving serenely to 34.

This is a match devoid of overseas players. Nottinghamshire are hoping that the back injury that Mohammad Akram, their signing, sustained in the Test he is playing in Colombo will not prevent him joining them later this week, even if it keeps him out of a one-day tournament in India next month.

Derbyshire rely on Adams to salvage their pride

By MICHAEL AUSTIN

LAKENHAM (Derbyshire won toss): Derbyshire, with eight wickets in hand, require 91 from 18 overs to beat Minor Counties

IF DERBYSHIRE head down the long and winding Benson and Hedges Cup road to Lord's, they will remember this salutary warning. They bowled badly, looked to a batting line-up lacking substance and thanked their lucky stars for Chris Adams, the man England have ignored.

Adams thrashed 95 not out, with ten fours and three sixes from 83 balls, and resumes today in flourishing partnership with Dean Jones. During a bizarre attempt to beat the weather and win the match before the third and terminal rain stoppage, Devon Malcolm batted at No 3 with a brief but violent flourish.

Much of the day had been lost to the Minor Counties. The butcher, baker and candlestick-maker buckled down to this annual challenge, delving somewhat stargazed into the world of other professionals. This time, it was the Newark Boris, Mark Fell, and the factory supervisor, Richard Dalton, of Bedfordshire, who took up the cudgels.

From the depths of nine for two, the Minor Counties, with only six previous competition wins in various guises from 129 games, reached the peaks of 256 for seven — only 16 runs short of their highest total when the competition was five overs longer.

These delights also put Derbyshire's support bowling into perspective. It was abject. Once Phillip DeFreitas and Malcolm disappeared from the attack, Andrew Harris and the left-armers, Kevin Dean and Glenn Roberts, were dispatched with ease.

Fell, 36, in his Lincolnshire testimonial year, made 67 from 69 balls with a six and seven fours against the county he represented 12 years ago after his release by Nottinghamshire.

Dalton, a past captain of the England Indoor XI and a tourist to South Africa with their squad last winter, also enjoyed himself hugely, hitting four sixes and eight fours in a 59-ball innings of 76.

Their batting, together with 43 not out from Stewart Laudat, also illustrated that the pitch was not what it appeared, despite the venerable Wayne Larkins making a 12-ball duck on his Minor Counties debut. Slow and with a green top, it offered precious little movement and Derbyshire's outfielding was variable.

Scotland reeling as Maddy signals humiliation

By RICHARD HOBSON

LEICESTER (Scotland won toss): Leicestershire beat Scotland by 178 runs

A SCOTTISH bowler took five wickets in the Benson and Hedges Cup yesterday, but, unfortunately for Scotland, Dougie Brown was playing for Warwickshire rather than the country of his birth. Officials remain optimistic that Brown will make himself available for the World Cup in 1999, but, on this evidence, the Scotland attack will need further reinforcements to avoid acute embarrassment when they face Australia and the West Indies.

Eight of the squad that secured third place in the ICC Trophy had exhausted their holiday entitlement in Malaysia and were pursuing their various full-time occupations yesterday. Those who appeared at Grace Road might have wondered what pleasure they truly derived from taking such an emphatic beating on a dreary afternoon.

Leicestershire's total of 371 for six was the second-highest in the competition and the best since it moved to a 50-over format last season. The tempo became increasingly rapid and Darren Maddy was only denied the century his wristy strokeplay merited when he was caught at long leg attempting to reach that landmark in the grand manner.

Scotland were effectively attempting to conduct a damage limitation exercise even during the later stages of an opening stand of 159 in 25 overs between Maddy and Ian Sutcliffe. Aftab Habib recorded a half-century from 34 balls thereafter, John Dakin struck 28 from just 14 and Graham Huribatt suffered the ignominy of having to open a gate and run into Milligan Road to retrieve the longest hit of the day from Gregor McMillan, whose parents were born in Scotland. Huribatt might have tried to lock himself out.

Scotland, too, began comfortably, but lost wickets regularly once Bruce Patterson had his leg stump removed by Dakin at the end of a first-wicket stand of 76 with Iain Philip.

Leicestershire expect to be strengthened tomorrow by the arrival of Neil Johnson in time to play against Nottinghamshire in their next group B fixture. They finally completed the signing of the 27-year-old South African all-rounder after protracted negotiations yesterday. Johnson, a left-handed batsman and medium-pace bowler, was originally contracted to play for Netherfield and Leicestershire have paid £7,500 in compensation to the Northern League side.

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Sri Lanka open way for victory

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE Sri Lanka opening bowlers and batsmen combined to put their side in a strong position on the third day of the second Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo yesterday.

At the close, Sanath Jayasuriya and Russell Arnold had consolidated some good work from Chaminda Vaas and Sajeeva de Silva, the seam bowlers, by sharing an unfinished partnership of 102, giving Sri Lanka an overall lead of 141. The first Test in the two-match series was drawn. Jayasuriya was undefeated on 61, scored off 123 balls with six fours, and Arnold, playing in only his second Test, was 29 not out.

The Pakistan attack was depleted by the absence of Mohammad Zahid and Shahid Nazir, the fast bowlers, who were both suffering from back injuries. Pakistan also lost the services of Moin Khan, the wicket-keeper, who did not take the field in the Sri Lanka second innings because of a painful right heel.

Sri Lanka capitalised on these injuries to take a first-innings lead of 39, with Vaas and Sajeeva de Silva taking nine wickets between them to dismiss Pakistan for 292 at tea.

Sri Lanka took the last four Pakistan wickets for 16 runs, three of them being claimed by Sajeeva de Silva, who finished with figures of five for 85 in his second Test.

Moin was dismissed two runs short of his fourth Test century after an exhilarating innings which lasted only 109 balls and included three sixes and nine fours.

Experience pulls Sussex through

By IVO TENNANT

HOVE (Hampshire won toss): Sussex (2pts) beat Hampshire by 49 runs

DOWN the years, the Benson and Hedges Cup is not a competition in which Sussex have excelled. They have never reached the semi-finals and, in their last three encounters with Hampshire, have not won once. Hence this victory, achieved after a heavy defeat the previous day and batting initially yesterday without much initiative, was to be relished.

A partnership between two of their more itinerant cricketers effectively won the match. Sussex were 117 for five and then 144 for six, having been put in to bat, when Bill Athey was joined by Paul Jarvis. Together, they added 87 in ten overs through the kind of judicious strokes that come with years of experience.

Hampshire, in spite of two

useful innings by Stephenson and Hayden, simply did not possess sufficient depth of batting. There is likely to be a long season.

So, after being beaten by Northamptonshire the previous day, this was just the flip side of the coin. That applied, not least, to Robin Marlar, their new chairman, who was nursing a badly swollen arm yesterday. He announced that



Stephenson: fine innings

Tony Pigott is now to be chief executive on a permanent basis. The former fast bowler is also on an MCC committee and, consequently, has retired from playing in any competitions, including The Cricketer Cup.

Both chairman and chief executive were keen to glean what they could from their Hampshire counterparts about ground development. Sussex have not excluded the idea of moving from Hove and wanted to find out about the forthcoming venue near Southampton airport that will be Hampshire's new home.

On the field, the mix of old and new was a good one. Individuals that comprise this Sussex side showed they could yet fare better than expected this season. In Neil Taylor, they have acquired a batsman who, judged solely on cricketing merit, would not have left Kent. He and the two Yorkshiremen, Athey and Jarvis, are the oldest members of

the team. There is still a place in the game for them and they all contributed yesterday.

So, too, did Amer Khan, the leg spinner who has come from Middlesex (and who is no relation of that fellow Lahoreite who once played here). He deceived Kendall with a top spinner, bowled Aymes and had James leg-before as he was starting to give Stephenson the support that was needed when Hampshire's innings was faltering.

The captain was last out, having managed only three fours in his innings of 65. Hayden was likewise restricted, his 44 runs including just two fours. There was a little movement for the faster bowlers throughout the day, but not sufficient for such containment. The gold award went — for the first time in his long career — to Jarvis, who cut one back to remove Smith early in Hampshire's innings and took two other wickets to go with his unbeaten 42.

Irani puts case for another chance

By PAT GIBSON

CHELMSFORD (Essex won toss): Essex (2pts) beat Glamorgan by five wickets

RONNIE IRANI'S deflating experience on tour with England during the winter has not dampened his enthusiasm. He was not asked to play much in Zimbabwe and New Zealand and, when he was, his ability was called into question. Nevertheless, he is already demanding another chance in the forthcoming one-day internationals against Australia.

He started the season with 49 and 123 not out in the county championship against Hampshire, scored another 48 in the Sunday league and yesterday saw Essex over their first, tricky Benson and Hedges Cup hurdle with an innings that could not have been more responsible and authoritative.

Nobody was more grateful than Nasser Hussain, the Essex and England vice-captain, who had ricked his neck so badly in the field that he was left sitting in the dressing-room taking pain killers and hoping that he would not have to bat.

It looked as though he was going to have to go to the wicket when Essex, chasing a modest 211, began to make as big a hash of their innings as Glamorgan had done, but then Irani took control in partnership first with Danny Law and then Robert Rollins.

Irani, whose concentration had already been disturbed by a 40-minute stoppage for rain, was so confident that he even turned down the umpire's offer to go off for bad light when Watkin began his final spell. Law, who had helped put on 62 in 12 overs, fell to Watkin's third ball, but Irani lost no time in justifying his decision,

seeing off the dangerous Watkin and then virtually settling the match by pulling Thomas for six and driving him for four.

He went on to finish unbeaten on 82, including two sixes and eight fours, off 97 balls, and, with Rollins joining him in an unbroken partnership of 54 in ten overs, Essex won with nearly seven overs to spare.

It was comfortable in the end, but they had made hard work of it after Glamorgan had as good as surrendered the match by losing their last eight wickets for 69. They were going well when Morris and Maynard were putting on 73 in 15 overs, but Morris, looking for a second six off Such, was caught at deep square leg and Maynard got out in the next over. When the captain does something like that, it is difficult to blame anyone else.

Russell will not budge over book

By ALAN LEE

CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

CRICKET is set for another messy and protracted disciplinary case, once more involving a book and with Raymond Illingworth as a central character. This time, however, the author is Jack Russell, discarding his image as the uncompromising martyr to a deliver what he views as a few home truths about Illingworth's man-management style.

Russell confirmed yesterday that his book, *Unleashed*, which is already being serialised in a tabloid newspaper, will be published unaltered in three weeks' time, despite his failure to obtain the sanction of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) over the more sensitive passages. The ECB could suspend Russell, who threatens to retaliate in the courts.

Illingworth is portrayed in an unflattering light and, predictably, the retired chairman of selectors is none too pleased about it. Russell refers specifically to the winter tours to South Africa and the World Cup in 1995-96, when Illingworth was team manager.

Russell maintains that he has not broken his contracts, either with Gloucestershire or as an England tourist, but he is aware that he could be charged with bringing the game into disrepute. Tim Lamb, chief executive of the ECB, said yesterday: "The board will look at today's [newspaper] article and any other concerns and, if there are any concerns then, the matter will be referred to the disciplinary committee."

CRICKET

Ealham's big finish sees Kent past resurgent Surrey

By JACK BAILEY

THE OVAL: Kent (2pts) beat Surrey by four wickets

SURREY bowled themselves back from the brink of certain defeat to come within sight of victory with one ball remaining. After looking all over losers when Kent needed 26 runs from six overs with six wickets in hand, Surrey so pegged them back in gloomy conditions that, when the last ball was bowled to Ealham, Kent still needed a single with a cordon of fielders grouped round to prevent it. Ealham solved the problem by hoisting Ben Hollis for six over deep mid-wicket to give Kent a deserved victory.

World Cup lessons have been learnt by English cricket, up to a point, the idea of scoring as many runs as possible in the first 15 overs, before the field disperses outside the circle, seems to have

caught on in a big way. The problems occur when the field disperses and the batsmen are caught between and between. Yesterday, Surrey and Kent employed similarly aggressive tactics early on.

Yet, whereas Surrey suffered a mid-innings crisis after reaching 108 for one in their thirteenth over, Kent — with the benefit of knowing what they had to achieve — kept their shape better, so to speak. From 104 for one in 15 overs, they knew that they only had to bat steadily to achieve their target of 258. There were alarms and excursions in the closing stages, with Kent still needing seven to win from the last over.

At the heart of their effort, Wells and Cowdrey built on the adventurous yet firm foundations laid by Walker and Ward, overcoming the brief hiatus caused by the loss of

Walker, whose 50 came from 62 balls with eight spanking fours, and Ward, who fell in the next over.

At 136 for three, Kent were considerably better off than Surrey who, at a similar stage, had tumbled to 135 for six, thanks to some good bowling from Fleming and Strang and their own impetuosity. For his considerable part in helping Surrey to lose their way, Fleming, who captured five wickets in all, won the Gold Award. Running him close was Stewart's sparkling half-century, and Cowdrey's valiant 47 from 66 balls.

Surrey's 257, though a useful total, was a disappointment for them after a start that was not only whirlwind in its conception, but devastating in its effect. McCague's first two overs cost 14 runs; Headley's yielded 22.

Ealham, brought on to steady things, conceded 27 from his first 12 balls. Stewart and Brown sent up the fifty after 20 balls. Surrey's first hundred came from 60 deliveries and it coincided with Stewart's half-century.

The loss of Brown, at 68, caused no faltering in Stewart's stride as Surrey, their batting order jumbled in the search for quick runs, laid about Kent. Stewart's dismissal, though, led to a nasty slide from which Surrey did well to recover. If only partially. Lightning reactions from Cowdrey at silly point, as Stewart advanced a pace or two, led to the Surrey opener being run out. When he left, Surrey were 108 for two in the thirteenth over and, before long, this had been translated to 135 for six.

Thorpe survived a confident appeal for a catch at slip when he had made ten, but then grafted as the occasion demanded. Lewis contributed usefully as did Adam Hollis, batting at No 8 in the reshuffled order, but with Fleming producing his best return in the competition with five for 54, the recovery fell short of being complete.

Lehmann's absence raises questions

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

OLD TRAFFORD (Lancashire won toss): Yorkshire have scored 43 for no wicket against Lancashire

ALMOST £3 million has been spent in the winter smartening up Old Trafford and a notice pinned in the pavilion informs members that the club's target for the season is to win the county championship. About time, too, though they will be equally reluctant to relinquish the one-day pots they have hunted with such success.

The Benson and Hedges Cup and NatWest Trophy are both on show in the museum, their presence appreciated all the more for the fact that Yorkshire were beaten here in the semi-finals of each competition last year. The teams met again in the opening zonal game of the new season

yesterday, but the Manchester weather ensured that the reunion fell depressingly flat.

Neither side fielded their overseas player and, if the absence of Wasim Akram was expected, that of Yorkshire's recent recruit, Darren Lehmann, was not.

Yorkshire, concerned that he has not batted competitively for a month, left him out yesterday and warned that the same may happen against Worcestershire tomorrow.

Apart from begging a question about precisely how Lehmann can demonstrate his readiness, it suggests that Yorkshire may be ambivalent on the issue of having an import at all.

David Byas, the captain, promoted himself to open and, in the 10.5 overs possible, put on 43 with Martyn Moxon, a useful platform for the resumption today.



Declan Curry, the Ireland opening batsman, just succeeds in making his ground during his innings of 75 against Middlesex in Dublin yesterday. Report, page 56

Russell refuses to be rattled

BRISTOL: Gloucestershire (2pts) beat British Universities by 122 runs

ANYONE walking into the County Ground yesterday morning would have been forgiven for thinking that this was one of the outstanding Benson and Hedges Cup fixtures of the day, so great was the number of cameras on show. Unfortunately, they would have been wrong.

The cameras were there to capture Jack Russell, the Gloucestershire wicketkeeper, who, after the advance publicity for his book, with its advice comments about Michael Atherton and Raymond Illingworth, now looks safe in adding the word "former" to his England title.

The photographers would also have liked to record David Lawrence playing in

his comeback game, but that one will have to wait. The fast bowler had a muscle strain, unrelated to his suspect knee, and did not feature.

The fuss that surrounded Russell did not affect his performance. He scored an unbeaten 28 from just 15 deliveries as Gloucestershire, after a solid 62 from Nick Trainor, overwhelmed the students' attack, with 114 coming from the last 11 overs. The unlikely rebel then took four catches as British Universities slumped to 63 for six before recovering to 159 all out.

It might have been an award-winning performance, but Shaun Young, the latest Gloucestershire recruit from Australia, won the man-of-the-match award after scoring 52 from just 53 balls, sharing a partnership of 62 in seven overs with Mark Alleyne.

Alleyne, whose 32 came even more quickly, later completed the catch of the match when he clung on to a full-blooded drive from Tim Hodgson, the Universities opener, who had worked his way to a steady 23.

Chasing 282, the students were quickly in trouble, as Ed Smith and Anarag Singh, both of Cambridge, were caught behind without scoring, and Martyn Ball effectively ended the contest by taking four for 24, his best figures in the competition.

Toby Bailey made up for some indifferent work behind the stumps earlier in the day by scoring 52, completing his half-century with a pulled six off Mike Smith. Robin Martin-Jenkins also did a stout job for the students in picking up four wickets, even if three of them came in the run-chase.

RUGBY UNION

New cup contest mooted

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE schedule next season in England will include a league cup, if plans considered yesterday by the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and representatives of the senior clubs come to fruition. It will be a Sunday competition, to ensure that club rugby can be sustained on a regular basis, even on weekends on which representative games take precedence.

This season, the clubs have had their fingers scorched by the failure of the Anglo-Welsh competition. It virtually sank without trace because of fixture overload, yet the need to build rest periods into a crowded season has to be balanced by the requirements of the professional clubs for a consistent revenue base.

The provisional structure for 1997-98 fits the league cup into November, when England play Australia, New Zealand and South Africa on four successive weekends, and then coincides with dates for the five nations' championship.

The concept involves first-division clubs, many of whom would lose their better players to England or Ireland A at the same time, playing development XV's against the strongest XV's the second-division clubs could field.

However, there is some way to go before a league cup gets beyond the drawing board and there remains a body of opinion within the RFU that would retain divisional rugby in some shape or form.

"It would provide the matches needed by clubs, not only from a commercial point of view but from a competitive point of view, too," Kim Deshayes, the chief executive of English Rugby Partnership (ERP), the company charged with running the professional game, said. "We hope all 24 clubs will agree, though it could go ahead with 20 or 16 clubs."

A new Sunday competition could appeal to BSkyB, the satellite broadcasting company, which is part-owned by News International (owners of The Times), which will have primary rights to English domestic rugby next season, although the coincidence with international rugby might well limit its appeal.

IN BRIEF

Henman victim of inactivity

TIM HENMAN, the Great Britain No 1, dropped one place, to No 16, in the world rankings issued by the Association of Tennis Professionals yesterday, while Greg Rusedski remained at No 40. Henman has gone down because Alex Corretja, of Spain, who reached the final of the Monte Carlo Open, has moved up to No 13.

Henman and Rusedski, who have been inactive lately after injuries but are now practising regularly in London at Queen's Club, hope to return within the next two weeks. Rusedski intends to play in Hamburg next week and Henman is looking to compete at the Italian Open in Rome a week later.

Mark Petchey is the only other British man in the top 200, at No 191.

Hockey: The new English Hockey Association, shortly to be formed by the merger of the Hockey Association with the All England Women's Hockey Association, is seeking a full-time performance director. The appointment will entail a deep study of the performance of national teams and the development of leading players. The performance director will also lead the process of appointing a national coach for the men's team to cover the period ahead including the World Cup in Holland next year. David Whittle will continue as team manager.

Rugby union: The play-offs to decide the last two promotion and relegation places between the Courage Clubs Championship first and second divisions will be played on May 7 and 11. The clubs involved are Bristol and London Irish, from the first division, and Coventry and Bedford, from the second. The first division clubs have opted for home advantage in the second legs.

Lacrosse: Australia's 6-0 defeat of Canada on the second day of the women's World Cup in Tokyo yesterday has set a problem for England, who must now beat Australia or the United States to have any hope of a place in the final. Scotland struggled to beat Japan 9-4 yesterday, scoring six times in the last ten minutes.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Benson & Hedges Cup

Essex v Glamorgan

CHELSEA: Essex won toss; Essex chased Glamorgan by five wickets

GLAMORGAN: S P James c Rolfe b Scott 15, M Morris c S G Lee b Scott 67, A Dale c Gwynne b Scott 17, M P Maynard c Hussain b Scott 44, P A Colley c Fitchard b Grayson 9, G P Butler c Rolfe b Scott 15, A D Shaw c Grayson b Scott 15, S D Thomas not out 11, S L Watson c Rolfe b Scott 1, D J Parnall c Rolfe b Grayson 7, Extras (R 3, W 4) 7, Total (48.3 overs) 210, FALL OF WICKETS: 1-22, 2-68, 3-141, 4-148, 5-165, 6-161, 7-180, 8-185, 9-196, BOWLING: Scott 10-1-58-3, Cowan 10-1-55-0, Han 10-0-42-3, Swan 10-1-31-1, Grayson 9-3-0-39-3.

Essex

G A Groom c James b Parnall 16, P J Parnall c Shaw b Thomas 20, S G Lee c Shaw b Thomas 20, R P Trott not out 80, A P Gwynne c Maynard b Dale 31, C R Lee c Shaw b Watson 28, TR J Rolfe not out 18, Extras (R 1, W 1, NB 2) 4, Total (57 wickets, 48.3 overs) 211, N Hussain, M C Potts, A P Cowan and M Sutch did not bat, FALL OF WICKETS: 1-28, 2-62, 3-71, 4-98, 5-157, BOWLING: Watson 10-2-27-1, Parnall 5-0-21-1, Dale 8-0-37-1, Thomas 8-0-40-2, Groom 10-0-35-0, Butler 3-1-0-19-0, Maynard 1-0-0-0, Gold award: R C Van Umpires: B Dudson and A G T Whitham.

Gloucestershire v British Universities

BRISTOL: British Universities won toss; Gloucestershire chased British Universities by 122 runs

GLoucestershire: N J Trainor c Martin-Jenkins 62, M Lynch c Smith b Jones 15, A J Wright c Bailey b Martin-Jenkins 31, S Young c Ford b Martin-Jenkins 52, R J Cuffe b Russell 24, M W Alleyne c Martin-Jenkins 24, TR C Russell not out 28, I H C Hancock not out 24, Extras (R 3, W 5, NB 4) 12, Total (48 wickets, 50 overs) 281, M C Ball, A M Smith and R P Davis did not bat, FALL OF WICKETS: 1-40, 2-103, 3-134, 4-167, 5-229, 6-230, BOWLING: Martin-Jenkins 10-0-57-4, Jones 10-0-57-1, Bowtell 10-1-62-0, Ford 10-0-45-1, Cullen 5-0-25-0, Russell 5-0-27-0.

British Universities

T P Hodgson c Alleyne b Hancock 23, ET Smith c Russell b Hancock 0, A Singh c Russell b Smith 0, M J Chilton c Cuffe b Ball 13, W J House b Ford b Martin-Jenkins 13, J A Ford b Ball 7, TR M B Bailey c Russell b Smith 52, U S A Rashid c Russell b Smith 10, R C Martin-Jenkins run out 10, P S Jones not out 5, S A J Bownall c Russell b Hancock 14, Extras (R 5, W 4, NB 3) 12, Total (49.1 overs) 159, FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-3, 3-36, 4-43, 5-44, 6-63, 7-117, 8-141, 9-154, BOWLING: Hancock 9-1-34-2, Smith 10-2-24-3, Young 4-0-42-0, Ford 4-0-33-4, Davis 10-0-25-0, Trainor 6-0-26-0, Gold award: S Young Umpires: D J Constant and J F Steele.

Lancashire v Yorkshire

OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire won toss; Yorkshire have scored 43 for no wicket against Lancashire

YORKSHIRE: D Byas not out 15, M D Moxon not out 30, Extras (R 4, W 4) 8, Total (no wicket, 10.5 overs) 43.

Minor Counties v Derbyshire

LAKENHAM: Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire, with eight wickets in hand, need 91 runs to beat Minor Counties

MINOR COUNTIES: S J Dean c Kivinen b Malcolm 7, W Lotters c Jones b Malcolm 30, J P Symonds c DeSilva 7, M Cossburn c Dean 7, M A Fall b Roberts 43, R N Dalton b Harris 76, S V Laidlaw not out 43, J M Fielding c Clarke b Roberts 1, R V Radford not out 10, Extras (R 4, W 11) 15, Total (7 wickets, 50 overs) 256, M A Sharp and P J Nicholson did not bat, FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-9, 3-31, 4-97, 5-173, 6-209, 7-222.

Derbyshire

K J Barnett c Nicholson b Fall 28, C J Adams not out 95, D E Malcolm c Lotters b Fielding 10, M Lotters b Symonds 20, Extras (R 4, W 6) 10, Total (2 wickets, 32 overs) 186, P A J DeSilva, G A H Harris, V P Clarke, R M Ashman, G M Roberts, A J Harris and J K Dean not bat, FALL OF WICKETS: 1-98, 2-112, BOWLING: Radford 8-0-29-0, Sharp 7-1-25-0, Cossburn 3-0-31-0, Fielding 7-0-40-1, Fall 4-0-19-1, Laidlaw 3-0-18-0, Umpires: B J Mayer and B Leadbeater.

Nottinghamshire v Durham

TRENT BRIDGE: Durham won toss; Nottinghamshire, with seven wickets in hand, need 137 runs to beat Durham

DURHAM: J B Lewis b Lee b Archer 58, P D Collingwood b Bailey 22, M A Roseberry c Noon b Bates 22, D C Noon not out 40, N J Spath c Noon b Potts 31, TR P Spath b Bates 14, M M Bates not out 14, Extras (R 6, W 6) 12, Total (5 wickets, 50 overs) 220, J Baling, N J Lewis, S J E Brown and A Walker did not bat, FALL OF WICKETS: 1-82, 2-86, 3-122, 4-129, 5-219, BOWLING: Evans 10-1-40-1, Potts 8-1-43-1, Tolley 9-0-40-0, Doornan 5-0-25-0, Bates 10-0-40-2, Archer 8-1-34-1.

Worcestershire v Warwickshire

Worcester: Warwickshire won toss; Worcester have scored 43 for no wicket against Warwickshire

WARWICKSHIRE: W P C Wilson c Cullen b Brown 7, J P Rhodes c Cullen b Brown 6, G A Hick c Gales b Welch 5, T M Moody b Brown 5, R B Smith b Brown 14, V S Solanki c Gales b Small 14, D A Leachman c Potts b Brown 10, R H Harris c Cullen b Small 10, S R Lampert c Donnelly b Gales 23, R J Chapman b Small 15, P J Newport not out 15, Extras (R 2, W 4) 6, Total (37.1 overs) 96, FALL OF WICKETS: 1-12, 2-25, 3-29, 4-39, 5-52, 6-53, 7-52, 8-56, 9-56, BOWLING: Donnelly 9-0-32-0, Brown 10-0-31-5, Welch 8-2-18-1, Small 6-0-18-3, Solanki 2-0-5-1, Smith 1-0-1-0.

Surrey v Kent

THE OVAL: Kent won toss; Kent chased Surrey by four wickets

SURREY: A D Brown c Ealham b Fleming 26, TA J Stewart not out 51, B C Hollis c Ealham b Fleming 30, I D X Saffery c March b Long 14, D J Thomas c Wells b Ealham 47, M A Butcher c Stuart b Fleming 1, N Shastri b Skang 2, A J Hollis c March b Headley 3, C C Lewis c Ward b Fleming 33, Walker, whose 50 came from 62 balls with eight spanking fours, and Ward, who fell in the next over.

At 136 for three, Kent were considerably better off than Surrey who, at a similar stage, had tumbled to 135 for six, thanks to some good bowling from Fleming and Strang and their own impetuosity. For his considerable part in helping Surrey to lose their way, Fleming, who captured five wickets in all, won the Gold Award. Running him close was Stewart's sparkling half-century, and Cowdrey's valiant 47 from 66 balls.

Surrey's 257, though a useful total, was a disappointment for them after a start that was not only whirlwind in its conception, but devastating in its effect. McCague's first two overs cost 14 runs; Headley's yielded 22.

Ealham, brought on to steady things, conceded 27 from his first 12 balls. Stewart and Brown sent up the fifty after 20 balls. Surrey's first hundred came from 60 deliveries and it coincided with Stewart's half-century.

The loss of Brown, at 68, caused no faltering in Stewart's stride as Surrey, their batting order jumbled in the search for quick runs, laid about Kent. Stewart's dismissal, though, led to a nasty slide from which Surrey did well to recover. If only partially. Lightning reactions from Cowdrey at silly point, as Stewart advanced a pace or two, led to the Surrey opener being run out. When he left, Surrey were 108 for two in the thirteenth over and, before long, this had been translated to 135 for six.

Thorpe survived a confident appeal for a catch at slip when he had made ten, but then grafted as the occasion demanded. Lewis contributed usefully as did Adam Hollis, batting at No 8 in the reshuffled order, but with Fleming producing his best return in the competition with five for 54, the recovery fell short of being complete.

THE TIMES

FOOTBALL

Georgia on their minds. A preview of England's vital World Cup qualifier against Georgia at Wembley.

FILM

An exclusive interview. Johnny Depp on working with Al Pacino on the film Donnie Brasco.

IN TOMORROW'S TIMES

INTERFACE

The dark side of the Internet. Cyber stalking of the famous and what can be done to stop it.

SNOOKER

Continued coverage from the Crucible as Stephen Hendry pursues a seventh world title.

http://www.the-times.co.uk

CHANGING TIMES

This thriller was fatally infected with apathy

Oh, the power of drama to engage the anxieties of an audience. Don't go across that contaminated field; we may hiss, curling up on the sofa. "Don't cut your finger!" "Don't make friends with that loony!" What a shame, then, that last night's much-traited epidemic thriller *Breakout* (BBC1) was so ponderous and unconvincing that it completely by-passed this usual type of audience appeal. "Oh go across there if you must," we yawningly instructed the poor dupes destined to be infected by a superbug. "Yes you, madam. Woman with the woolly hat. Bear right and follow the path. You can't miss it."

Why was *Breakout* so bad? Well, there is a theory about the first (hilariously bad) quartet of *Hamlet* that it was dictated illegally to a printer by the actor who'd played the minor role of Marcellus (the

clinch this theory is that only Marcellus's rather functional lines are delivered fully and ungarbled, while the larger plot of regicide, soliloquy and madness he cheerfully barks. (Act Five comes out something like "Oh, and then there's a swordfight and they all die.")

Were a scholar of the future to conduct the same sort of textual analysis of Michael Stewart's *Breakout*, he would immediately guess that it was written by a lab technician, since all the brightly-eyed passion went into lines such as "Then I extracted the DNA super-naturel (the stuff floating on the top)" while the larger matters of suspense and characterisation were left forlornly to fend for themselves.

Basically, there was this lab with this genetic super-bug, and it got out. Within the lab, people kept telling each other things they knew already: "There is no way a

bacular [sic] virus can jump the species barrier!" "Our loan is dependent on approving the pesticide!" "There is an issue of principle here. It's a question of truth and the public's right to know!" Ho hum. It went on like this for an hour and a half. Meanwhile, Neil Dudgeon was insanely miscast as an entrepreneurial huffin, and Samantha Bond wrestled admirably with a character that had no history, no interest, and (strangely) guess that she was the one jumper. She found herself unaccountably attracted to the ambitious Romanian research student Stefan (Marius Stanescu) who, of course, decided to kill her when they were alone in the lab at night. Ho hum again.

Back in the safety zone of the 1980s and *Bramwell* (ITV), scientific disagreement proved it could be a good deal more arresting. Dr Robert (David Calder) was now fully enamoured of the rich widow Mrs

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

of the rich widow Mrs Costigan (Maureen Beattie), he had his big chance last night to impress her with his medical machismo. He puffed out his chest and was immovable. And to be honest, it was rather thrilling.

Mrs Costigan's baby nephew was suffering from a twisted intestine — we must operate at once, says Robert. But "No, never!" declares the rich widow, who has

personal reasons for abhorring the knife. Enter top surgeon Aubrey, who happens likewise to be in love with him. Producing a little rubber hose, Aubrey says grandly he will clear the blockage without surgery, by pumping gas up the child's backside! Robert is alarmed (as is the baby). Both doctors fling slanderous accusations and then lock antlers above the cot, while Mrs Costigan's pretty blue eyes fill with boiling tears.

And who is proved right, finally? The poor constipated baby, having already been (in vain) pumped up like a balloon, feels the surgeon's blade nevertheless, and is preserved from death by a bit of good old-fashioned slicing. "There's a lot of damage been done to the intestinal wall," says Robert, thoughtfully fingering a little red worm hooked around his finger. "But I think we caught it just in time." His defiance of Mrs Costigan may have cost him his

happiness, but he is a doctor and has saved a life.

But what's this? Mrs Costigan isn't angry with him anyway? "Having fought you so hard," she announces, "I know what you are. And I can think of no one whose judgment I would trust more." So, while the baby (unseen) does a massive, blissful poo in the background, Robert takes Mrs Costigan's hand. "I care for you, Alice," he says. "I care for you very much." Alice gasps. "And I thought I'd lost you!"

Some months ago, I posted a theory about how *Eastenders* (BBC1) is written, in an attempt to explain how young Joe had stopped being mad like a light being switched off. Did the production office put little fuzzy-felt symbols next to each character's name? Did Joe's "Mad" symbol fall off one day and get sucked up by a vacuum cleaner? It

was as good an explanation as any for this merciful release, but how I wish I'd never mentioned it now. Damn it, somebody has found the bit of fuzzy-felt in the vacuum-cleaner bag. They've wiped off the worst of the fluff, and stuck it back on the wall.

So Joe is back to staring weirdly at people, and talking in paranoid riddles, and reading *War of the Worlds* with his mouth open. But at least this time his usually obtuse mum Lorraine hasn't failed to notice. "I saw all the signs. I just kidded myself," she confessed last night. Joe invited a load of down-and-outs into the flat at midnight, and called them his disciples — and for once Lorraine didn't look up at him with those weird wide eyes and say "That's nice, love. You needed some friends."

Perhaps it was Lorraine who knocked that fuzzy-felt off the board in the first place? I wouldn't put it past her.

6.00am Business Breakfast (37165)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (70104252)
9.05 Election Call Leader of the Opposition, Tony Blair, answers viewers' questions. Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 4 (0903529)

10.00 Style Challenge (12271)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (77523)
11.00 News (T) and weather (14163287)
11.05 The Really Useful Show (9533078)
11.35 Snooker: World Championship Early coverage from the quarter-finals at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre (3759562)

12.35pm Good Living (9140455)
1.00 News (T) and weather (35610)
1.30 Regional News (50787639)
1.45 Neighbours (T) (16337225)
2.10 Snooker: World Championship Live coverage as the quarter-finals take place in Sheffield (4018287)

3.30 Mouse and Mole (9150146) 3.35 Playdays (944535) 3.55 Arthur (6458252) 4.20 Julia Jekyll and Harriet Hyde (5831504) 4.35 News (7877455)
5.00 Newsround (T) (5538504)
5.10 The Lowdown Profile of a 12-year-old sufferer of the rare, common skin disease vitiligo (6483225)

5.35 Neighbours (T) (913349)
6.00 News (T) and weather (900)
6.30 Regional News (252)
7.00 [Choice] Holiday: Fasten Your Seatbelts! Seafront jill Dando experiences the island industry first-hand at Disney World in Florida (T) (9948)

7.30 Endless Lorraine is forced to land the shocking truth about Joe, Gita discovers Sanjay has been hiding something and Carol and Alan have cause for celebration at last (T) (436)
8.00 [Choice] Children's Hospital The paediatricians treat a teenager who was badly burned when a prank on a railway line went wrong (T) (6146)

8.30 Goodnight Gary begins to have second thoughts as he wedding to Phoebe draws ever closer (T) (9861)
9.00 News (T) and weather (982829)
9.50 Party Election Broadcast by the Conservative Party (T) (727891)
10.00 The British Academy Awards 1997 Lenny Henry introduces the star-studded gala occasion live from London's Royal Albert Hall as celebrities gather to honour the best in the worlds of television and film. Famous faces appearing include Michael Caine, Richard Harris, Kate Winslet, Alison Steadman and Stephen Fry. Subsequent programme may vary (T) (957523) WALES: 10.00 Week in Week Out Special, Election '97 (37287) 10.40 The British Academy Awards 1997 (28345726) 1.00 FILM: Midnight Cowboy (134296) 3.00 News (9867869)

12.15am Midnight Cowboy (1969) John Schlesinger's Oscar-winning drama following the offbeat but touching friendship between a streetwise New York vagrant (Dustin Hoffman) and a naive Texas country boy (Jon Voight) (157450)
2.05 Weather (3671769)

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6.00am Open University: The Thirle Estatis (2797165) 6.25 Angelica Kaufman, RA (2709500) 6.30 The Albert Memorial (1574577)
7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (T and signing) (8501078)
7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (T) (4675233) 7.55 Blue Peter (T) (5177707) 8.20 Junior Jungle (T) (3669726) 8.35 The Raccoons (T) (9395165)

9.00 Study Ireland — History (79981) 9.30 Believe It or Not (2759829) 9.45 Watch (2678164) 10.00 Telebooks (10813) 10.30 Come Outside (2877691) 10.45 Science Zone (5922287) 11.05 Space Ark (4071252) 11.15 Go for It! (754287) 11.30 Sportsbank (6368) 12.00 See Hear (T) (T and signing) (65417)

12.30pm Working Lunch (99287)
1.00 Teaching Today (33252) 1.30 Testament: The Bible in Animation (98558) 2.00 Junior Jungle (T) (42504875)
2.10 The Village Last in series (15862261) 2.35 A Perfect Arrangement (7290981) 2.40 The Beauty Spot (5053230) 3.00 News (T) (7054252) 3.05 Carnaby Roadshow (T) (9364287) 3.55 News (T) (6172436)

4.00 Snooker: World Championship Further action from this afternoon's quarter-final matches (6559097)
5.15 Racing from Ascot: Julian Wilson introduces the 5.30, 6.00 and 6.30 races (313829)
6.45 Heartbreak High (T) (973788)

7.30 Snooker: World Championship Further coverage of the quarter-finals from the Crucible (98523)
8.30 Food and Drink The best of the 1996 vintage (T) (6523)

9.00 Murder One A shady criminal comes forward with damning evidence against the Mafia Attorney's Wyler and Gressio present their closing arguments and await the jury's verdict in the Sharon Rooney trial. Moseley (D.B. Woodside) maintains his claims of suitability for the Ricky LaRue case (T) (6504)

10.30 Election Broadcast: Conservative (T) (923436)
10.35 Newsnight (T) (822558)
11.30 Snooker: World Championship David Vine introduces the closing frames from the day's quarter-final matches from the Crucible (56349)

12.30am Learning Zone: O.U.: Caught in the Act (43653) 1.00 Anware Computers in the Arts (43653) 1.30 Evaluating Pre-School Education (82030) 2.00 Stop and Think (36011) 4.00 Teaching and Learning with IT (19769) 4.30 Film Education: A Day in the Life of Goldeneye (31818) 5.00 Inside Europe (73950) 5.30 6.00 Film Education: Production (77547)

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6.00am GMTV (6081900)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (T) (T) (3620523)
9.50 Regional News (2012610)
10.00 The Time, the Place (14639)
10.30 This Morning (61402271)
12.20pm Regional News (4763639)
12.30 News (T) and weather (9136253)

12.54 HTV Crimestoppers (9752349) 12.55 Shortland Street (9136271) 1.25 The Pines and Aways (T) (6451344) 1.50 Afternoon Live (9136276) 2.20 Vanessa (T) (14194391) 2.50 Afternoon Live (5319542)

3.20 News (T) (7061542)
3.25 Regional News (7060813)
3.30 Wizards (T) (6507523) 3.40 Potomac Park (T) (9185078) 3.50 Bimble's Bucket (T) (9154962) 4.00 Garfield and Friends (T) (5646436) 4.15 Hey Arnold! (T) (9639894) 4.40 Island (T) (8682894)

5.10 The House Home improvement magazine (1993623)
5.40 News (T) and weather (189455)
6.00 Home and Away (T) (897252)
6.25 HTV Weather (943078)
6.30 The West Tonight (T) (963458)

6.55 Election Broadcast: Conservative Party (818558)
7.00 Emmerdale Chris lashes out at Zoe and Betty gives Bill an ultimatum (T) (5894)
7.30 Family Circus: Four Uncles, One Aunt and a Marmite portrait of 11-year-old James, a first-generation British-born Indian girl whose family were expelled from Uganda, resettled in Bristol and set up the "Sweet Mart" store in Euston (504)

8.00 The Bill Boulton suspects the man behind a hammer attack is someone he has to arrest before (T) (4542)
8.30 Police, Camera, Action! Alastair Stewart exposes the high-speed antics of careless motorcyclists (T) (4879)

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Poll's feuding descendants trigger memories of historic assassination



The cause was Europe, the outcome deadly. Damian Whitworth finds strange resonances between 1812 and today

IN THE drowsy villages around Sandringham, the general election campaign has been enlivened by talk of assassination. The monarch, it should be said at once, is not at risk. But in her backyard a political feud is being fought that resonates with the history of a bloody episode in British political life.

In 1812, Spencer Perceval, the only British Prime Minister to be assassinated, was shot on his way to a committee meeting in the Commons by John Bellingham, a disgruntled merchant. Now a descendant of the assassin, Henry Bellingham, finds himself up against a Perceval determined to terminate his political career, albeit by the ballot box rather than by any more dramatic method.

Roger Spencer Perceval, whose family somewhere along the line apparently replaced an "e" with an "i", claims kinship with the former Whig Prime Minister. He is standing for the Referendum Party against Mr Bellingham, who has held the seat of Norfolk North-West since 1983.

Then, as now, the sticking point was Europe. John Bellingham lost a fortune on the Continent when he was imprisoned in Russia and he took violently against Perceval when he refused to support the merchant's claim for false imprisonment. Bellingham pleaded insanity after the killing but was hanged.

Henry Bellingham says that he is unimpressed by the historical link. "It is a little nuance of the campaign which is perfectly harmless. Roger Perceval doesn't strike me as a descendant of a prime minister. But then I don't look like an assassin. John Bellingham was a wayward member of the family."

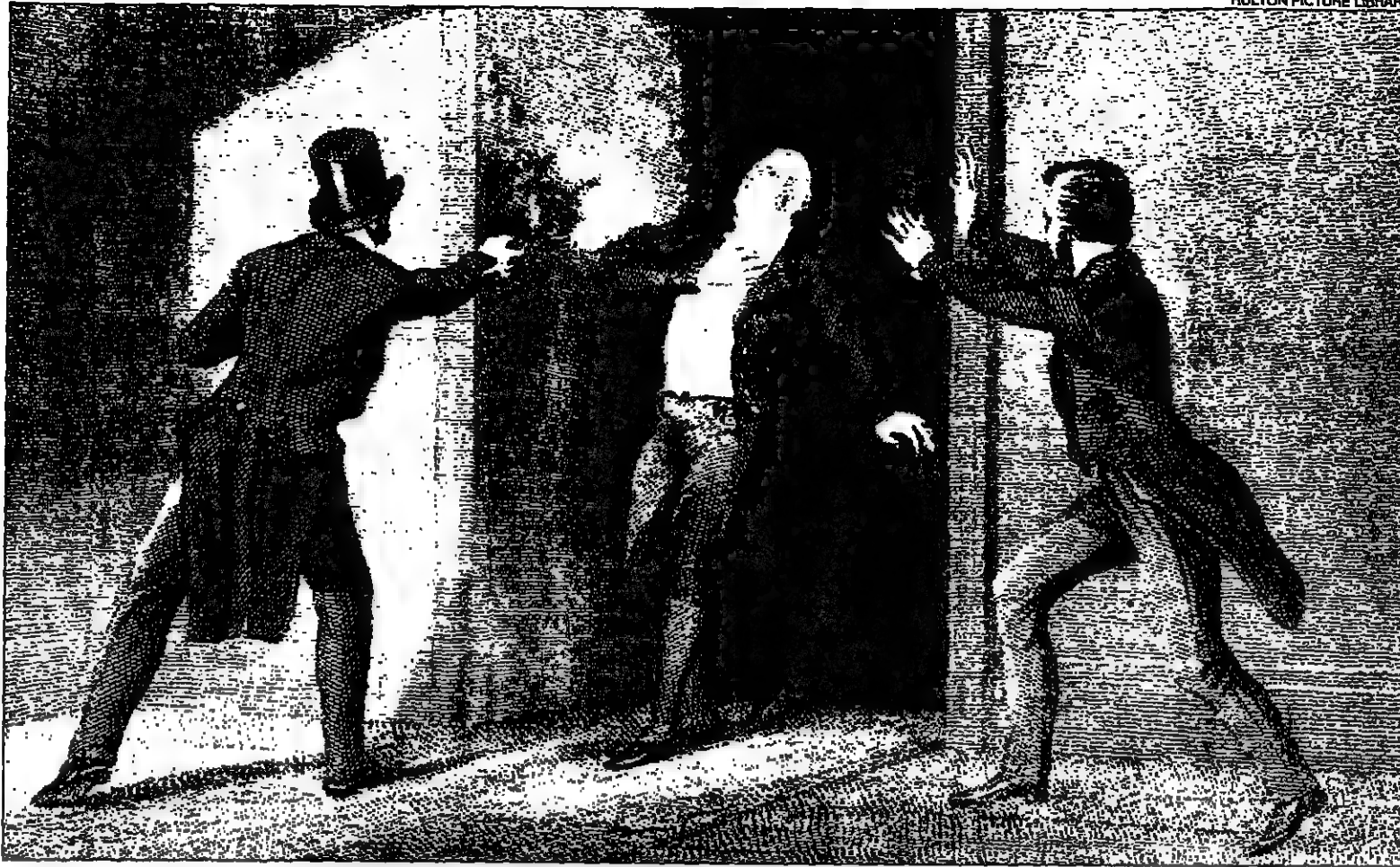
It is true that Mr Perceval does not have the appearance of a ruthless political hitman. But while his belief that he will win the seat outright may be a little optimistic, he may just do for Mr Bellingham by taking enough votes to help Labour to sneak in and capture the seat.

Mr Bellingham has a notional majority of a little more than 11,000 over Labour but the Referendum Party has a high profile in the constituency and he knows that he has a fight on his hands. He has responded by saying in his election address that he wants a referendum on the wider issue of Europe and not just on the single currency, to which he is hostile.

Out canvassing in villages close to the Queen's estate yesterday, he skipped swiftly between doorsteps undeterred by heavy showers. When he stopped for lunch in the Rose and Crown in Harpley, he worked his way through a pile of personal letters to constituents who had been discovered by canvassers to be leaning towards the Referendum Party.

Mr Perceval's kinship with the former Prime Minister is unclear. The link cannot be traced through the pages of *Burke or Debrett*. "But my father was called Spencer Perceval and it is a name that has come down through the family. I am sure there is a connection."

What is clear is that the fight for this seat will stop only just short of pistols at dawn on the Queen's lawn. Henry Bellingham, who has proved himself a crack shot on local sporting estates, is confining himself to shooting from the lip and appealing for those wavering towards the Referendum Party to see reason.



The murder of Spencer Perceval on his way to a committee at the Palace of Westminster in 1812, as conceived by a contemporary engraver. Below from left: the killer John Bellingham; Henry Bellingham, with his strong family likeness; Prime Minister Perceval; Roger Perceval



Seventies TV icon joins Bell campaign

By CAROL MIDDLELEY

MARTIN BELL enlisted the support of a 1970s pin-up yesterday to boost his campaign to take Tatton from Neil Hamilton. David Soul, the blond half of the gun-toting television detectives Starsky and Hutch, posed for photographs with Mr Bell at a cocktail party held in Mr Bell's honour.

The two men have been "dinner companions" since they met in Hampstead several years ago when Soul was visiting London. Soul made a one-day trip to Tatton to show his support for Mr Bell's anti-corruption stance, joining a list of celebrities including Sir Alec Guinness, who donated £100 to his campaign, and the playwright Alan Bennett. Soul said: "I'm delighted to come and help Martin."

Mr Bell, a former BBC war correspondent, forecast that Mr Hamilton's 22,000 majority would be dramatically cut.

TATTON

"I think it is going to be extremely close."

Mr Hamilton has been asked by a senior member of his Conservative Association to pledge his resignation if found guilty by Sir Gordon Downey. Yesterday, in an open letter made available by the Bell campaign office, the senior association member said that most people in Tatton would feel able to vote Conservative if Mr Hamilton undertook to resign as MP if the Downey report found him guilty of wrongdoing or dishonourable conduct, or he was he was criticised by the tax authorities.

But Mr Bell said: "What we have from Mr Hamilton instead is a pledge only that he will resign his seat if guilty of bribery or corruption or if the Conservative whip is permanently withdrawn."

"Does this mean that, if elected, he will keep his seat if Downey finds he has acted dishonourably or he is guilty of wrongdoing or that he is criticised by the tax commissioners? I think that the people of Tatton are entitled to the answer to that."

More candidates, page 49

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TIMES 29/4

Confident Kohl insists Britain will join EMU

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, has offered a tentative olive branch to the future British Government and said he was certain that Britain would eventually join economic and monetary union (EMU).

The German leader's optimism about Britain's policy towards Europe after the elections was not matched by high expectations for the Amsterdam summit. If that failed, he told an audience in Bad Homburg, "there will simply have to be a Maastricht II or a Maastricht IV".

The German political class seems to be positioning itself for a change of power in Britain. Officials said yesterday they were expecting a visit to Bonn soon of Robin Cook, now the Shadow Foreign Secretary. Mr Cook was quoted in an interview in *Focus* magazine saying that Anglo-German relations would thrive more in a "sensible, structured and efficient union" than in a loose association of nation states.

Political commentators in Bonn attached more weight to the Chancellor's comments on Britain than on Mr Cook's view of Germany. The German leader shrugged off the Conservative Party's poster

depicting him as a ventriloquist, with Tony Blair as his dummy. "Every country's history has to be treated with respect," he said. Germany was ready and duty bound to allow other countries to take a longer route to an integrated Europe. No doors would be shut in anybody's face. "Europe without Great Britain is a mere torso," he said. "When the euro comes, Britain will one day be part of it."

The Chancellor indicated that he was determined to push ahead with his goal of a politically integrated Europe. 1997 is the key year for Europe. If it is not possible to build the house now, it will not happen in ten or 15 years either. The process of European unification must be and remain irreversible.

In the same speech, delivered under the umbrella of the influential Herbert Quandt Foundation, the Chancellor underlined that Germany would resist any move to delay the introduction of a single European currency beyond the deadline of January 1, 1999. The German leader has been given flanking support by the International Monetary Fund, which also warned at the weekend that delay would derail the whole EMU project.

The reason for this apparent hardening — at a time when Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, is still arguing that "convergence dictates the timetable" of EMU — is the need to strengthen the spine of pro-European politicians in the French parliamentary elections.

A report in *Der Spiegel* nonetheless claims that the German Government is preparing to fudge its figures to comply with the key Maastricht criterion for entry to EMU, the ceiling of 3 per cent of gross domestic product for public deficits.

The magazine, trying to explain why the independent forecast for the 1997 deficit is 3.2 per cent (rather than 3.5 per cent as predicted last autumn) argues that the German Treasury is staggering debt repayment in such a way that lower interest is being paid in 1997, the decisive year for EMU entry.



Relatives and friends in Port Arthur's historic church at yesterday's memorial service for the 35 killed a year ago

Australia pays homage to massacre victims

Sydney: Thousands marked the first anniversary of the Port Arthur massacre yesterday with a minute's silence throughout Australia and candle-lit ceremonies (Roger Maynard writes). Flags were flown at half mast to pay tribute to the 35 people killed in the country's worst civilian shooting, when Martin Bryant ran amok with a semi-automatic rifle.

Several hundred relatives and friends of the victims attended a memorial service at the massacre site. Neil Noye, the Mayor, said: "What happened is beyond our understanding." Among the mourners was Walter Mikac, whose wife and two daughters were shot dead by Bryant. He wrote on a wreath to his six-year-old daughter, Alannah: "To my darling Lani,

I can still hear your voice and smell your hair." Hours earlier, it emerged that Bryant, 28, who is serving a life sentence in Risdon top security prison in Hobart, had tried to commit suicide for the third time. The Australian Government said 400,000 firearms had been handed over after the massacre, with compensation of nearly £100 million paid to gun owners.

Maoris on warpath over the Spice Girls

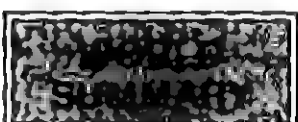
FROM PATRICK SMELLEE IN WELLINGTON

FOR the Spice Girls it was just a bit of fun. But for the guardians of Maori culture, their attempt at the best-known Maori haka (war dance) in a holiday resort on Bali was offensive.

Egged on by two New Zealanders among a hundred fans and journalists at a special promotion in the Indonesian resort at the weekend, the group performed the *Ku Maia*, a haka made famous by the All Blacks.

"It's a bloody disgrace," said Willie Jackson, an Auckland haka expert who manages a local answer to the Spice Girls called Moana and the Maori Hunters. "The Spice Girls are on dangerous ground," he added.

Sir Timoti Karetu, New Zealand's haka expert, was also not amused by "girlie pop stars" performing a dance normally reserved for men. However Bart Coles, their manager, countered: "The girls absolutely did not mean to mock Maori culture."



Journalists 'damaging' Hong Kong

Hong Kong: Businessmen here yesterday condemned the foreign press for "biased" reporting during the run-up to the handover to China, and blamed international journalists in the territory for causing hotel, tourist and retail businesses to decline badly (Jonathan Mirsky writes).

At the first meeting of Advance Hong Kong, attended by about 100 people, European and Japanese journalists were accused of suggesting that the colony was "doomed".

Belgium setback

Mons: The investigation into a serial killer who has cut up the bodies of up to five women suffered a setback when a Belgian court ruled there was insufficient evidence to keep a suspect in jail. But an appeal by the prosecutor means that the man, 33, will stay in jail for two more weeks. The discovery of a head led to the identification of one victim as Nathalie Godart, a former girlfriend. (AP)

Activists jailed

Jakarta: Budiman Sudjatmiko, 27, the leader of the left-wing Indonesian People's Democratic Party and eight party associates were convicted of subversion and jailed for between 18 months and 13 years. They pledged to continue fighting for democracy from their cells, and called for a boycott of the general election called for May 29.

Korea suicide

Seoul: A former banker, Park Suk Tae, 59, questioned by a parliamentary committee over a bribery scandal that rocked the Government, was found hanged at his home, police said. The scandal centres on the collapse of Hanbo Steel Industry, South Korea's second largest steelmaker. (AP)

Wife savers

Dubai: Two wives of a Saudi man suffering from renal disease competed to donate a kidney to save their husband. The donor was chosen by drawing lots, said a Saudi newspaper. (Reuters)

French Socialist pact 'will hit euro'

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

LIONEL JOSPIN, the French Socialist leader, will today seek an electoral pact with the Communist Party, despite warnings that it could prevent France from joining Europe's single currency.

At a meeting today, M. Jospin will tell Robert Hue, his Communist counterpart, that he would accept Communist ministers in his government if he were to win next month's parliamentary elections. The move has added a further dimension to French divisions over Europe.

M. Jospin has paved the way for today's meeting by promising Keynesian policies that would make it difficult for France to meet the criteria for entry into the single currency. He says he is in favour of the euro, but only if he is able to implement measures that would raise the public deficit above the 3 per cent limit imposed on countries wanting to enter economic and monetary union.

His stance has encouraged his left-wing allies but angered Socialists loyal to the late President Mitterrand, who was one of the architects of the 1992 Maastricht treaty.

M. Jospin's critics say he could not hope to persuade Germany to loosen the criteria for monetary union, leaving his government with a difficult choice. Either it would have to ignore its pledge to cut the working week, reduce salaries and create 700,000 jobs for young people, or it would have to abandon the single currency.

The Socialist leader believes, however, that he can tap into the Euroscepticism that has been fuelled by successive austerity budgets designed to cut the French deficit. On Sunday, he said: "This country could not stand it, economically and socially, if it were necessary to impose more austerity to fulfil the Maastricht criteria."

Electoral mathematics have added to his doubts on Maastricht. Although the Left stands to win almost as many as many votes as the ruling parties of the Centre-Right, it will still fall short of a majority in the National Assembly, according to two opinion polls published yesterday.

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Aid workers find thousands of Hutu refugees

By SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT, AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THOUSANDS of exhausted and dehydrated Rwandan Hutu refugees were reported to have emerged from thick forest in Zaire yesterday, about 30 miles south of Kibumba, a rebel-held town.

On Monday Laurent Kabila, the leader of the rebel Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire, gave the United Nations 60 days to find more than 100,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees who had fled temporary camps in eastern Zaire after they were attacked by Zairean villagers. Relief workers said yesterday that they had found between 5,000 and 10,000 refugees.

"This is very good news. We have a rain fully loaded with 115 tonnes of food which we will dispatch to them tomorrow," said Michelle Quintaglie, a spokeswoman for the UN World Food Programme.

The United States yesterday stepped up diplomatic pressure on President Mobutu and Mr Kabila to meet and agree a ceasefire, by sending Washington's UN Ambassador to Kinshasa with a letter from President Clinton to the Zairean leader.

US State Department officials declined to reveal what the letter said, but they hinted that it was a polite request for Mr Mobutu, 66, to meet Mr Kabila and negotiate his own departure from power. Last month the State Department said Mr Mobutu's 32-year rule was "history", a view backed by France, Britain and influential members of the congressional black caucus. The

arrival in Kinshasa yesterday of Bill Richardson, the ambassador, came at a vital time when Mr Kabila's reputation as a revolutionary hero and a man who respects human rights appeared to be badly tarnished.

Mr Richardson is expected to meet Mr Mobutu soon and the rebel leader tomorrow. Diplomatic sources in Kinshasa said that the American envoy was expected to deliver a harsh rebuke from Washington to Mr Kabila for his alleged indifference to the plight of the Hutu refugees in eastern Zaire.

Many of the refugees are killers who participated in the genocide of a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates in Rwanda three years ago. They have been using civilians as a shield against the Tutsi-dominated rebel soldiers.

Aid workers have been dismayed at the rebels' refusal to allow help to reach thousands of small children now dying of starvation and exhaustion after seven months of trekking through the jungle.

The desperate state of the refugees, whom the UN hopes to fly home to Rwanda in the world's biggest humanitarian airlift, has strained Mr Kabila's relationship with Western supporters, who have seen him as a credible alternative to Mr Mobutu's three decades of rule.

"Kabila is now very vulnerable to diplomatic pressure," one European diplomat said in Kinshasa. "That means his advance might be slowed down and a political solution found instead of what he has been threatening, a bloody battle for Kinshasa."

The rebels have been widely accused of killing Hutus in eastern Zaire, but so far no credible evidence has been presented for the allegations.



President Clinton meets Ellen DeGeneres, right, the actress who recently announced that she is a lesbian, and her girlfriend Anne Heche

White House embraces lesbian celebrities

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

IN WHAT is fast becoming "lesbian week" in the United States, a television star and her newly-declared girlfriend embraced and stood with their arms around each other when they were presented to President Clinton.

Mr Clinton, who is, if anything, a president for all minorities, smiled broadly and did everything he could to encourage Ellen DeGeneres and her lover, Anne Heche. The couple met the President at a Washington dinner at which, arguably, they and Mr Clinton vied for top billing.

In the past, to meet the President was to stand to attention, straighten one's collar, and remind oneself to call the fellow "sir". Ms DeGeneres and her girlfriend showed that this has been replaced by a new protocol. The television

star gave a passionate squeeze to the waist of Ms Heche, who in turn gave a sisterly stroke to her lover's shoulder. They might have been Siamese twins. Mr Clinton's reaction was to laugh and smile.

Ms DeGeneres, 39, will tomorrow become the first prime time television comedy star whose character "comes out" as a lesbian. She recently

did the same in real life, and has announced her love for Ms Heche, 29, a film actress. Tomorrow's episode of the Ellen show on the ABC network has created extraordinary excitement in gay circles. Hundreds of private "come out with Ellen" parties are being organised across the United States, and in countries as far flung as Finland

and Japan. A group called the "Human Rights Campaign" has sent out 2,600 party kits to applicants. They include gay rights trivia questions, a promotional video, and exhortations from prominent lesbians.

There have been a few dissenting voices — in Alabama, for instance, a local ABC franchisee is refusing to

broadcast the show — but public reaction to the episode has generally been accommodating and has, according to gay advocates, shown just how "in vogue" sapphic love suddenly is.

The women have been described as courageous to have declared their sexuality, but Bill Kristol of the conservative *Weekly Standard* commented that real courage in America these days is to "out" oneself as a right-wing opponent of partial birth abortion or, he might have added, as an adherent to the two martinis lunch.

In the matter of a week, Ms Heche has become one of the most photographed women in America. The only problem for her, according to Hollywood sources, will come when she next wants to be cast in a film. Until now she has been regarded as a reliable love interest — as in heterosexual love.

She is now so recognisable as a "celebrity lesbian" that audiences may have difficulty suspending their disbelief were she to be cast in a "straight" role.

Kennedy 'scandal suppressed'

BY QUENTIN LETTS

THERE are indications that the latest apparent scandal to hit the Kennedy family may be smothered by the American East Coast establishment.

Michael Kennedy, 39, a son of the assassinated Robert Kennedy, faces allegations that he had sex with an underage babysitter. The girl, now 19, is the daughter of a Democratic party backer who was previously close to the Kennedys.

Simultaneously, Mr Kennedy and his wife Victoria have announced that they are separating after 16 years of marriage. Mrs Kennedy is alleged to have found her husband having sex with the girl.

Not that one would know it from reading *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times*, or from watching the main network television channels, which have largely ignored the story. Local prosecutors said that they would mount a "preliminary review" of the case, an unusual and imprecise legal term. Preliminary "investigation" would be more usual.

Brian Noonan, the police chief in Cohasset, Massachusetts, said that he feared the District Attorney and the girl's family would sit on the case, owing to the wealth and influence of Mr Kennedy.

"The Fix is In" noted a headline in the *New York Post*, which also quoted a Cohasset resident who said: "If it was me, I'd be behind bars. Do the Kennedys ever get convicted?"

Jeffrey Locke, District Attorney for Norfolk County, where the alleged incident took place, said that it "could be an hour, could be a year" before anything further about the case was announced.

FIFTY malnourished refugee children were abducted in a rebel-held area of eastern Zaire when a group of Laurent Kabila's soldiers stormed a paediatric hospital, the United Nations Children's Fund reported yesterday.

Patrick McCormick, a UNICEF spokesman in Geneva, said 20 armed men in military uniform forced their way into the hospital run jointly with Save the Children, the British charity, at Lwiro, near the Rwandan border, on Saturday. All the children there were taken away in a lorry.

"One of the staff recognised the leader of the attack as the leader of a local Alliance military detachment," Mr McCormick said. The Zairean rebel unit was based at Kaitana, the next village on the road north to Goma, according to a UNICEF official. Two

local nurses and a woman employee were beaten up and the soldiers fired shots in the air, apparently to intimidate adult Rwandan refugees.

Mr McCormick added that some of the soldiers berated Zairean hospital staff for "caring for our enemies". UNICEF said it had no idea where the children were. An official protest was made to Laurent Kabila's Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire, and international agencies set up an inquiry.

Investigators from the UN's human rights centre are due to arrive this week to investigate allegations that rebels killed many Rwandan refugees from camps near Bukavu and Goma at the start of their offensive last November.



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Chrétien seeks mandate in snap

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien is seeking a mandate in a snap election, according to a senior government source. The source said that the Prime Minister was considering the possibility of calling an election in the near future, but that he was not yet ready to announce a decision. The source also said that the Prime Minister was looking for a clear mandate from the voters to continue his government's policies.

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MY SISTER THE JUNKIE

When I last saw my sister two years ago, it was at my wedding. She was wearing black — black PVC trousers, a black cropped top and a black knee-length leather coat. Not long after the festivities started, she came over to me. "Just popping out to a drinks party," she said. "Be back soon." OK, I said. I wasn't going to point out the pathetically obvious: that I knew she was going to score heroin.

But then, maybe Tess thought I would swallow anything. After all, for three years I had lived with her without realising that she was a junkie. We shared a small, two-bedroom flat in Notting Hill, exposed to each other's most private domestic routines. I cramped her style (nocturnal good-time girl) and she cramped mine (City square); but we made light of it and tried to stay out of each other's hair. It appealed to me that I was getting to know my glamorous sister, whose years at boarding school — a convent which, with earnest wrong-headedness, prepared its girls for London society — had separated us.

Then I moved out and my younger brother Jack, a lawyer, moved in. After he found a bottle of methadone on top

enraged and tearful. I felt defrauded. She had lied to me for years without a qualm, and the intimacies we had shared for all that time seemed little more than a joke at my expense. She had taken fraternal gifts innocently proffered — loyalty, co-operation, money — and corrupted them. She had subverted the peculiar fidelity that underpins sibling love.

Look in a bookshop and you won't find books that address these feelings. Go to an FA (Families Anonymous) meeting and you will meet junkies' parents and partners, but rarely their brothers and sisters. Perhaps because there is no outlet for their concerns, siblings become adept at containing the addict's impact on their lives.

But perhaps there is a deeper, more troubling reason for one's ability to cope, connected with the rough-and-ready nature of sibling love. Brothers and sisters do not choose one another, or voluntarily spend their childhood years together. Their relations are, however affectionate, founded on co-operation and territorial respect. Good fences make good siblings. Thus Jack and I, Tess's flamboyant and peers, failed to see what was in front of our noses.

Tess relapsed after rehab and the family adopted a "tough love" strategy. But after suspending normal relations for two years, my parents began to crack. My mother fell victim to anguished retrospection and dreadful imaginings; my father twice suffered cardiac fibrillations. On top of everything else, each became anxious about the other. And so last Christmas, when Tess falsely asserted — yet again — that she was clean,

Addiction pervasively glamorised in *Trainspotting*

of the television set, Tess admitted that she had dabbled in heroin but said she was now clean. Dabbling? Methadone? She gave us an explanation that I cannot distinguish from the excuses, cop-outs and likely stories I have heard since. We believed it.

We didn't tell our parents. Children don't, unless it's absolutely necessary. Like sex and rock 'n' roll, drugs are a generational vice and naturally subject to a youthful conspiracy of silence. Thus my friends Abigail and Louise have for five years tried to manage their eldest sister's heroin addiction, and still they have not informed their parents. Optimistically, they are trying to exploit their sorority and twentysomethingness in an effort to persuade her to come clean.

They are wasting their time. Jack and I tried a version of this and it didn't work. That Christmas, at my parents' house, Tess was so stupefied by the Temazepam she had swallowed as a nightcap that, by the following afternoon, she still hadn't woken up. She had to be dragged from her bed and manhandled on to her train to London. A short while later, Jack again found methadone in the flat.

We told our parents what we knew. Soon afterwards, at a special family gathering, my sister admitted to us that she was addicted to heroin, and had been for the previous seven years. In a flash, it was clear that Tess's history exactly resembled the personal and professional shambles characterised by junkies: little capacity for work, a morbid liking for sleep, skinniness, colds and dreadful nightmares when she went on family summer holidays, and a mysterious elusiveness, in conversation and in person.

Now I understood the savvy, inner-city signals that her chic, trashy look gave out. Now I understood why she and her boyfriend, no connoisseurs of avant-garde prose, owned copies of William Burroughs's *The Naked Lunch*; why she so identified with Billie Holiday; and why she thought that Patti Smith was beautiful. Adulation, even imitation, of the famously stoned is a typical feature of junkiedom.

Suddenly and irreversibly, the world of heroin was mine to inhabit: a realm as personal as a nightmare — that you wake up from it — was absent.

Detox in London followed the family meeting: rehab was a six-week stint at a clinic in the country. Family members took turns to visit Tess and participate in group therapy. At my session, I found myself surprisingly

they invited her home. But I decided that, for the first time, I would not go home for Christmas. Someone had to hold the line, for Tess's sake; besides, I could not face the prospect of a fraudulent holiday.

At a post-Christmas FA meeting, it became clear that the holidays of virtually everyone there had been spoilt. But whereas parents are used to putting their children's needs before their own, siblings are not. Like plants struggling beneath evergreens, we are denied the familial sunlight by the addict's presence — and we resent it. "He's not invited to my daughter's christening," a colleague said of his smackhead twin. "I've had enough."

Jack did go home — to support our parents, not Tess. "I don't care whether she's a junkie for the rest of her life," he said, "just so long as she doesn't hurt Mother and Father."

"But that means you're giving up on her," I objected.

Jack said, chillingly: "Taking drugs makes her happy — and unless she's happy, Mother won't be."

My brother has a point. The most distressing thing of all has not been Tess's plight, but witnessing my parents' destruction.

But the news is not all bad. Brothers and sisters can play a positive part, helping their parents to come to terms with the agonies they suffer. The distance that siblings keep from each other, and the elastic love that nevertheless connects them, enables "clean" children to enact "tough love". And rightly or wrongly, my brotherly love does not allow me to write Tess off. I still love her; I especially love the person she once was. I still long for her clean essence to emerge once the drug-induced fakeries have been stripped away. But to remove these is, in Tess's case, to strip away that relentless fiction, her adult life. And this is what is frightening, for us and her.

So this is the position of complicity we have reached. My junkie sister concocts fictions that my parents — and, for all I know, she herself — buy into; my brother goes with the flow for my parents' sake; and I'm left out on a limb. This is not a promising situation. In fact, it is desperately sad.

If I could lovingly release our family from Tess, I would. It would be the healthiest thing for her, for me and Jack, and for my parents. But I cannot; so we are still all tied to her in knots that are as hard to unravel as those that bind Tess to her dark, true sibling.

● This article first appeared in *Vogue*. All the names have been changed

'I still love the person my sister once was'



When heroin steals a beloved brother or sister, the dark shadow over family life eclipses siblings, too

Self-help brings fresh hope

THE MOTHER'S STORY

PARENTS are often the last to know that their son or daughter has a serious drug problem. Mary Smith discovered that her son, Christian, was a heroin addict when the police banged on her door to tell her he had turned to crime to pay for his addiction.

"I was devastated. I didn't have a clue," she recalls. But she was not alone. Throughout the early 1990s, parents in Knowle West, a south Bristol council estate, were discovering that a generation of the area's youth had been "kidnapped" by heroin.

But when Mrs Smith went in search of help for her son, there was none available.

"There were lots of other mothers in my position," she says, "so we decided to do something about it. We invited the people that matter to a public meeting and the mothers told their story."

Heart-wrenching accounts of children lost to the needle, of young lives wasted and of kind and caring offspring turned into thieving, lying monsters, had a dramatic effect.

Four months later, Mrs Smith and several other mothers of addicts formed Kwads (Knowle West Against Drugs), a mother-led support group. Experts on tap not on top. They meet every week to share information and give each other support. Periodically they hold public meetings, where parents can learn more about the drugs threat facing their children.

But their most radical work is done in local schools. "We don't go in as teachers or counsellors," says Mrs Smith, now Kwads' chairperson. "We go in as what we are: the parents of heroin addicts. We tell the truth about our personal lives and it is said from the heart." They started with the 14- to 16-year-olds but found their greatest impact was in primary schools.

The project now has an office and three full-time staff. Next month it will host a national conference for the parents of addicts.

Yet the success of Kwads has not ended Mrs Smith's personal agony with Christian, now 23. "He is in a drugs programme, but every so often he has a breakout. I wouldn't be telling the truth if I said he was well. I have another child, Emily. I brought them up both the

same way and she went to university and he became an addict. I still don't know why that happened."

Like Mrs Smith before her shocking introduction into the world of drugs, most parents' fear for their children is sharpened by ignorance.

"Like most activities that put the fear of God into parents, the casualty rate is very low," says Harry Shapiro, of the Institute for the Study of Drug Dependency. "For those who dabble, there are no guarantees, but the truth is they are unlikely to end up in shadow on television or stretched out on a mortuary slab."

There are tell-tale signs of drug use — the cardboard filter of a cannabis joint or a butane canister in the room of somebody who doesn't smoke. But the important thing is for parents to familiarise themselves with the drugs scene, and the earlier the better.

Experts recommend that from the age of four, children should be taught that drug misuse is harmful. From seven they should know the dangers of discarded syringes and needles and be introduced to the law on the use of drugs. From 11, they should be taught about categories of drugs, including stimulants and hallucinogens, and terms such as addiction, overdose and adulteration. From 14, they should know about drugs' legal status, effect and appearance and danger of mixing drugs.

THE Government's strategy, Tackling Drugs Together has published *A Parents' Guide to Drugs and Solvents*, which explains 14 drugs. It encourages parents to talk to their children about drugs and advises: "Don't bully your children; don't lecture — remember how it felt to be lectured at; don't preach — being holier than thou does not help a child; don't try to scare your children with shock horror stories. It doesn't work."

The message a child needs to hear and believe from a parent is, says the booklet: "I may not like what you have done, but I still love you."

JULIAN KOSSOFF
● The author is Assistant News Editor, *Time Out* magazine

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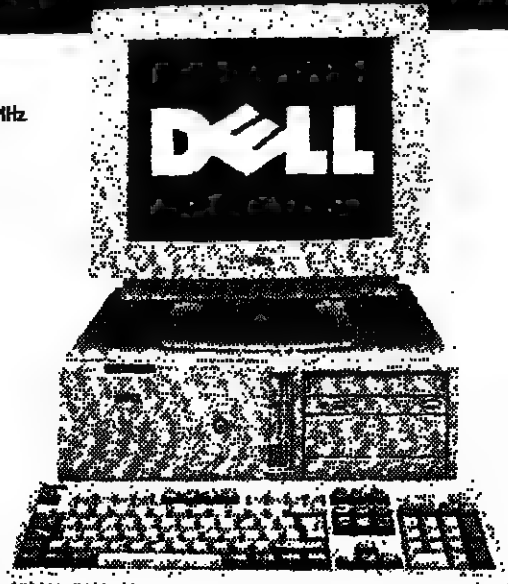
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It's all a question of leadership

Michael Portillo accuses Blair of forfeiting the people's trust

Tony Blair began the election campaign by asking the public to trust him. It was an extraordinary appeal, based on the admission that Britain would have been wrong to trust him at any time in the past.

Mr Blair has learnt a lesson from four successive election defeats. He knows that he cannot win power by following his instincts. The people have rejected them, though he does not understand why. In his desperation for power he seeks direction elsewhere: from focus groups, from the media, from Europe. These are not solid foundations on which to build a government. No wonder Labour had such an uncomfortable fortnight of confusion and contradiction at the start of the campaign.

Then, in desperation, they switched tactics to a campaign of lies and smears which reached its grubby extreme last week when Tony Blair the man who once vowed to "think the unthinkable" about welfare, the man who pleaded piously to be trusted — looked straight into the television cameras and lied to the British people about the Government's pension reforms.

Conservatives knew he was lying. The media knew he was lying — or "peddling falsehoods" as *The Times* more delicately described it. Without doubt he knew he was lying.

But scaring the vulnerable with cold-blooded lies is seen as fair by new Labour. It is just the latest demonstration that Labour is prepared to say and do anything for power.

It is no wonder that over the past few weeks in dozens of constituencies around the country I have detected little enthusiasm for new Labour. The mood is one of uncertainty, doubt and confusion. Mr Blair has not won the people's trust. As I have campaigned I have met few people who think that things would actually improve under Labour. But I have met many who think just what Mr Blair wishes them to think: just what the entire cynical exercise of fashioning new Labour out of old Labour was meant to make people believe: that it wouldn't make much difference.

Others understand all too well that a Labour government would make things worse, harm our economy and weaken our country. But they are considering voting Labour anyway because they think the Tories would benefit from a spell in opposition, and that five years on we could be returned, rejuvenated and refreshed, to sort out the mess. I have a simple message to those people: you are wrong. In government the Conservative Party has faced the challenges needed to change Britain for the better. And as we demonstrate in our manifesto, we continue to be the party of ideas, ready to take on the challenges of the future. In opposition, we could only be spectators as Mr Blair reversed the progress we have made in the past 18 years.

undermined our economic strength, gave up British sovereignty to Europe and broke up the United Kingdom.

People should be in no doubt that when Mr Blair says "new Britain" he means it. His manifesto contains a series of proposals to change the constitution which would be hard to reverse. He describes these plans as "the biggest programme of change to democracy ever proposed by a political party". Yet they are not promoted among his five publicised pledges. They do not number among his ten vows — his self-styled "contract with Britain". It is hard to recall his even mentioning them in his many interviews, speeches and press conferences during this campaign. But, if elected, he would claim a mandate to vandalise our constitution, and quickly set about doing so.

Mr Blair's determination to tear up our constitution is born of his distaste for the traditions and institutions of a Britain that has rejected his natural instincts. He confines these policies to the margins of his rhetoric because they fail the only test he applies to what he says: Is it popular?

For Tony Blair's highest aspiration is merely to echo what is popular. He is a follower not a leader. That is why he tries to be all things to all men.

That is why he says different things to different audiences. That is why, in this campaign, he has twisted and turned at the simplest problem of what he believes and of what he plans to do to Britain.

Sunday brought the starkest and most ominous example of Mr Blair's approach. In his appeal to middle Britain he places his party "in the centre, speaking for the mainstream majority", and claims to have put behind him everything we used to associate with the Labour Party. Last weekend, trying to carry favour with the Left's old guard at *The Observer*, he said: "I am of the Centre-Left and I want the Left to be part of this project. I want the Left to realise that if we win this election, we will have done so without ceding any ground that cannot be recovered." The man who bases his appeal for Britain's trust on the claim that Labour is truly "new", now admits that every change in his party can, and by implication will, be reversed.

The greatest danger of new Labour in power is not that it would suddenly be overrun by a re-emerging hard-core Left, but that in government it would be exactly as it is in opposition: rootless and vacillating, seeking only to appease, never to lead. We would face the consequences almost at once: in six weeks' time when critical decisions about our sovereignty are negotiated at the Amsterdam summit, and in 12 weeks' time in Labour's promised emergency tax-raising Budget.

Many in the media have already written Mr Blair into Downing Street. He certainly takes victory for granted. But the British people have not spoken yet. And when they do they will wipe the smile from Mr Blair's face.



A lifeline for floaters

The millions who are still indecisive have my sympathy. I was once among them

I isn't in the bag, you know: don't be fooled. Never mind all that stuff predicting Labour Cabinets and Tory bloodletting. In this trade, we like to pretend we know. But we don't.

Far from the hothouse of political interest, millions are still indecisive. I do not mean those shy, legendary creatures, the "secret Tory voters" who lie to pollsters while intending to vote Conservative all the time. I mean the real floaters, still rubbing their heads in honest perplexity. Thursday is too soon for these humble Hamlets: some will not finally decide until the pencil is in their hand, some will come out of the booth still unhappy, saying, as one neighbour did last time, "Oh dear, I really don't know if I've done the right thing". Weeks later she still didn't: it takes more than the swearing-in of a new government to stop some people floating.

Both main parties know from their canvassing that indecision is rife. This is why Tony Blair strives modestly to avoid the unconditional future tense, why John Major uses it constantly, and why both sides long to pelt Edwina Currie with duff eggs. Airily conceding victory before the ballot is not modesty but a wilful misunderstanding of the electorate. A German radio journalist told his listeners: "These people could do anything, there is no logic."

It is time to throw a lifeline of sympathy to floating voters. I do not mean absenteeism: I take the schoolmarm line that their names should be posted up in their neighbourhoods after each election so that everybody knows the lazy human reality behind the phrase "low turnout". Nor am I bothered about those who write "Bastards!" across the names of all the candidates, or lunatics who cover the paper with tiny intricate allegations in green ink that the Pope is in league with Martians. Just pity the real floaters, who value the vote but can't decide what to do with it.

I was a floater once — in 1979 — and it was miserable. Even left-liberals were fed up with the incompetence of the Callaghan administration (remember differentials, demarcation, comparability, British Leyland?) But the Heath Government was also horribly fresh in the memory. The mood of the moment was frustration at the chaos of inadequate majorities: cliffhanger votes, sick MPs brought

in on stretchers, the Lib-Lab pact, no decisiveness or dignity anywhere. That mood led me, at the last minute, to the despicable floater course of voting with the poll swing. If other people were voting Tory, so would I, so minimising the chance of another hung Parliament. A friend, following the same emotional path through that election, agreed. "After all," she said, "even if they're bastards to the poor, Tories are great business people, aren't they? They'll make the country rich, then we can afford social democracy."

It was that simple, that stupid, that human. Our marginal Tory won. Reader, I elected him. I personally helped to kick-start the Conservative years. But we feckless single girls never dreamt that our deed would begin an aeon of one-party rule, stretching into our own children's teenage years.

Today's floating voters have it even harder, although once again their dilemma is less likely to be about ideology than about effectiveness. At least in 1979 everybody of voting age could remember the failures of two kinds of government and choose between two sets of experienced ministers. Now it is a contest of old and new, habit and mystery, and all the more irrational for that. Not knowing which shore to swim for, the floaters are buffeted by powerful emotional eddies.

A strong instinct tells them — particularly Mrs Floater — that you should always keep tight hold of Nurse, for fear of finding something worse. When decent John Major says "Wake up to the danger!", she is receptive. Times have been hard, the children's school is far from perfect, the hospital is a worry, and the articles she reads about the criminal underclass are reinforced by the shuttered unkempt look of city streets when she ventures from her safe suburb. Nice Mr Major says that things get worse under Labour governments; considering how bad they are even after 18 years

without one, this is pretty alarming. Logic does not come into it, for real floaters.

Mr Floater, meanwhile, is less pessimistic: business has started to look up and he is almost convinced by the argument that delicate shoots of recovery would be crushed by the insensitive Labour boot. Almost, but not quite. He remembers the VAT rises, the exchange-rate mechanism debacle, the quadrupling of his business rate and how near he is to negative equity. Two of his old friends are bankrupt, and he doesn't think it is their fault. He resents this having happened during a time when, even without illegality, former government ministers seem to do so well for themselves financially.

Another current pulls the floaters towards new Labour. Keeping tight hold of Nurse is cosy, but sometimes when they look up into the faces of Nurse and the sneer of Dr Mawhinney, the smugness of Michael Howard or even the familiar sheeplike earnestness of the Prime Minister, they suddenly want to snatch their hands away. Dear God, not again! The Tories in 1997 are the depressing party, the scribbled-over, dog-eared, tearstained exercise book of a party. Must we really go back to those crabbed pages?

The floater feels a surge of certainty: it is time for a fresh sheet, a new book, a clean new hope. Europe is not a problem: the floater is not bothered about the single currency or a federal superstate, thanks to an inner conviction that it won't happen anyway because Europeans will mess it up.

But the whole family really liked Tony Blair's party political broadcast, the one with the tennis and the children and the bright kitchen and the man's keen-eyed, sincere Christian urge to put the nation in a hot bath and give it a good scrub. The Floater family said that and remembered John Major's maudlin water-colour hymns to his Brixton roots and

his father's honest business failure, his dank aura of evening-classes, Tizer, county cricket and old maids on bicycles. They suspect that a new Labour government on Friday would give them the same surge of glee they felt when they chucked out the chintz and gave the nasty old wedding-present china to the charity shop.

But floaters are not stupid: they know that any new sheet will soon be covered in tears and blots and mistakes. Moreover, they are British and have an innate need to cherish frayed old objects. The Conservative Party are well, sort of heritage now, aren't they? We've grown accustomed to their faces. Labour might harbour strange germs. Might it not be better to stick by the greasy antimacassar we know, and Granny Thatcher's chipped old gravy-boat?

So the floaters watch the campaign, unhappy and restless. They know it is up to them what happens next, but can't decide. Once, their problem might have been solved in a simple human way by esteem for a particular local candidate, but these days local candidates are almost invisible against the harsh arc-lights of the media campaign. So in the end, it will be a small thing that sways them: perhaps even on the journey to the polling station. In the countryside, it might be a row of brutal Tory posters marching along a roadside prairie, some big landowner's defiant abuse of the power of property to oust the brave, wrinkled, red and orange patches in the windows of the cottages. In the city it might be an equally brutal Marx-red sticker shouting "SMASH THE TORIES!" This makes the floater stiffen in protest, his Cold War burnions twinge, and swing to the right.

Then comes a 1960s song on the radio, a shower of rain after drought, or the voices of children at a school Maypole singing the song about the Peasants' Revolt: "Labour and spin for fellowship, I say, Labour and spin for the love of one another, in the light that is coming in the morning." The floater snuffles, and swings left again. Then something else happens. The floater is so confused by now that it might just be a wink from a pretty student outside the polling station.

Why else do you think that by ancient electoral folk-wisdom, all the parties sit smiling by the hall door, in rosettes? They know that it's all to play for, even then.

Libby Purves



The Oscar-winning *English Patient* cast is to reassemble

sound of a non-professional pair". However, Minghella's mother, Gloria, who with her sister has been playing the accordion since she was a child, was less than sure about her debut in Salisbury: "He has only mentioned it to me in passing. I don't even know when it is. I'll cut his ears off when I see him. He is a very naughty boy."

London's Evening Standard, which rooted for John Major in

the last election, has given up on the Conservatives. In today's paper, the editorial column advises its readers to vote Labour: "Both democracy and public policy demand a change of government on Thursday." Odd. The Barbour-clad Editor, Max Hastings, has always struck me as being grouse moors away from Tony Blair.

P.H.S

The Menace

THE Conservative Party may have anticipated an outburst from Edwina Currie, who predicted a Labour landslide at the weekend, but Cabinet members must have thought they were safe with Sir Denis Thatcher. Unfortunately, they weren't.

Yesterday in Hong Kong, Sir Denis dismissed the chances of John Major's survival as Prime Minister with a wave of his hand. After a lunch in the colony with some of its tycoons, he joined the Duchess of York's cigar-smoking friend David Tang for a stroll.

When asked by onlookers how he assessed the chance of Major's survival in the election on Thursday, he laughed and said: "Nil". Friends of the Conservative Party suggest that Sir Denis's lively lunch had encouraged a slip of the tongue, and that he had not meant what he said. Yesterday, Conservative Central Office was not prepared to consider the unthinkable: "It's very unlikely that he said that," said one Major loyalist.

Baroness Thatcher, who took time off the campaign trail with Sir Denis to visit Hong Kong — where they were guests of honour at a party thrown by Tang — has

visited 17 constituencies banging the drum for Major. Work which, some now claim, has been undone by Sir Denis's *joie de vivre* on the eve of Hong Kong's handover.

Red Gould

LABOUR's campaign strategist Philip Gould will not be idle if the party wins on Thursday. Not only

is he being earmarked as the Tim Bell of Blair administration, but he is also at work on his inside account of the election campaign. The book has been attracting the interest of the leading London houses, eagerly searching for a British *Primary Colors*. I hear that the secretive Gould has opted for Random House — which happens to be run by his wife, the equally elusive Gail Rebuck. Nothing like keeping it in the family.

Indelicacy

RADIO 4's *Today* programme countered the tedium of the election campaign yesterday when it fielded its star interviewer, Jim Naughtie, to report on differing pain thresholds between men and women. He got the giggles, not for the first time, and struggled man-

fully to keep them under control.

The rot set in when he asked two distinguished columnists, Auberon Waugh and Ann Leslie, for their views. Waugh promptly raised the notion of men producing milk from their breasts.

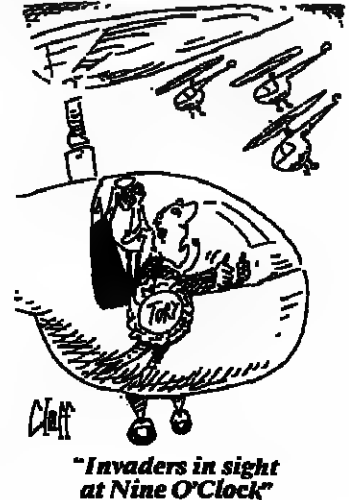
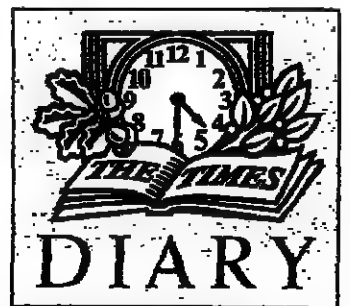
Naughtie then said: "Anyone who wants to volunteer to tickle Auberon Waugh's nipples, write to him and not to us." At which the *Today* studio erupted, and Ann Leslie and co-presenter Sue MacGregor disappeared under a table in fits. "Excuse me, this is terrible," apologised our hero as he stumbled into a report on BSE and dogs.

In accord

THE MOST important stars of Anthony Minghella's cast in *The English Patient* are to perform live in Salisbury for the first time since the film's success at the Oscars.

Minghella's mother Gloria and his Aunt Betty, accordion players who take a cameo role at the end of the film, have been pressed into service again. By day they run an ice-cream factory; by night they are keyboard virtuosos.

They will appear at the Salisbury Festival of Literature next month. Guests are promised a rendition of the Neapolitan and Italian Folk accordion music that was featured in the film with "an authentic



Invaders in sight at Nine O'Clock

THE TIMES TUESDAY
PRINCIPLE
A vote for Member

T
have never been a fan of opinion polls. On May 28, 1945, Gallup showed a Labour lead of 16 per cent, followed by 9 per cent on June 18 and 6 per cent on July 4. Polling day was July 5. The outcome was a Labour lead of 20.4 per cent. There was some speculation that it was the late-counted Service vote that made the difference. Not really. More than half the servicemen entitled to vote didn't. Among the 1,700,000 who did, there was a Labour majority, but not by nearly enough to explain why the final Gallup poll was so wrong. Incidentally, even in that great landslide Labour achieved only 48.3 per cent of the votes.

In the 1992 election, polls showed a clear Labour victory. Subsequently, when people were asked how they had voted, the majority said Labour. This was due to many voters saying on the way in that they were Labour, putting a cross against the Conservatives and announcing on the way out they had voted Labour. Hence the final leadings of Peter Snow with his swingometer, proving from the exit polls that Labour was a certainty, and his gloom when they lost. This Thursday's is the hardest election to read in my lifetime.

In 1970, the polls predicted defeat for Ted Heath up to the end, but two things happened. One was a month with an unexpectedly adverse balance of payments, then thought to be the test of economic success. The other was Harold Wilson leaning out of a window inviting people below to tea with him at No 10 after the election. The element of hubris in Mr Blair has fed upon itself during the campaign. For days it has been said that a removal van is loading up his belongings outside his Islington house. If so, what is its destination?

Labour has a rule: all those with Shadow portfolios must initially be given the portfolio itself in a Labour government. Now we hear that unregenerate old guard-members of the Shadow Cabinet will be relegated to minor offices. Millions of old-fashioned socialists resent the idea that socialism is the vice new Labour dare not name. Those thus affronted also tend to have deep patriotic feelings which inspire detestation of the ever more encroaching powers of Brussels. They are aware that acting tough with dissenters in the run-up to the election is a doddle compared to standing up to bullying by Herr Kohl and his satraps. Mr Blair did not even dare stand up to Mr Major in a one-to-one television debate. Mr Major has proved his mettle by gaining opt-outs on the single currency and the social chapter which Mr Blair and the Labour leaders opposed in the Maastricht debate in 1992. But for Mr Major, Mr Blair, if he were to win, would have no negotiating position at the Amsterdam Euro-summit in June. Mr Blair's approach to the EU is accommodatively wet in contrast to Major's dogged determination to be isolated until he gets his way.

My instinct is that many who once were the solid base of the genuinely socialist Labour Party will abstain or even vote for Major. They will not toy with Paddy Ashdown, who is regarded as pointless. For those former Tory voters who tell the pollsters they have switched to Mr Blair, there is a new worry. After being charmed by the promise that their personal income tax rates would not be increased, they are beginning to realise there are many ways to skin a cat. Why otherwise, after pledging to stick to Tory spending plans for at least two years, has Gordon Brown now said he will hold an emergency Budget if he is Chancellor on May 22? It is not just for the legalised theft of the windfall tax, which will depreciate the value of millions of shareholdings in the affected companies and in the pension funds that have invested in them. It is a clear signal of new taxes to pay for their few firm promises, namely to try to decrease youth unemployment by 250,000 with an unworkable scheme, and to improve the NHS, which Mr Blair ludicrously claims has been wrecked by the Tories.

There is another point missed. Last Sunday on television Mr Blair declared that the unemployment figures are cooked by the Government, and are 529,000 higher than stated. So he presumably would put the missing 529,000 on unemployment benefit — a massive undertaking costing several billions. Along with the emergency Budget, there would inevitably be rises in interest and mortgage rates, which would deliver a punch in the stomach to the middle-class voters Mr Blair has been assiduously wooing. However much he denigrates the state of the economy, many in the middle class have thought it so sound, and progressing so well, that not even Mr Blair and Mr Brown could ruin it. Now they are having last-minute second thoughts.

Against all the pollsters, and chumps like the pornographic bestseller and disloyal Tony Blair will win by a landslide. On the contrary, I believe that John Major, who has fought brilliantly, is on course for a majority of around 30-40, plus his natural allies, the Northern Ireland Unionists, who do not trust the mercurial Mr Blair.

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السنة الأولى



PRINCIPLE NOT PARTY

A vote for Members who will defend Parliament

To endorse is, at its simplest, to write on the back of a piece of paper, an endorsement is also an approval of a specific act, a signal of a transfer of power, even a warning that a licence for action may be taken away. A newspaper's endorsement at election time is a mixture of all those things.

In 200 years *The Times* has never assumed that its readers take its advice to vote for politicians or platforms. We still respect our readers too much to make that assumption. In the past weeks we have been especially affected by the views of readers who think that we should not offer advice at all. We entered this campaign with an open mind about what and whom we would support — and we have reported and commented in that spirit.

We have also been asked by readers to respect our traditions in assessing whom we support. For some that is a Tory tradition; for others it is a more complex pattern of endorsement that deserves our respect.

Throughout the elections of this century a number of themes emerge that have resonance in the arguments of today. The first is the importance of the individual Member of Parliament. In this election season we have given support to candidates as varied as the Liberal Democrat Liz Lynne in Rochdale and Sir James Goldsmith of the Referendum Party in Putney; in the past both Michael Foot and Shirley Williams have been endorsed — whether they liked it or not — for their contributions to Parliament.

The second theme has been a preference for endorsing policy over party. We have

long preferred the principles of economic radicalism and personal liberties over the parties and people who espoused them. One of the greatest achievements of *The Times* in its youth was to escape from the partisan tradition of the London press. In the early years of this century, despite its generally Liberal instincts, *The Times* placed its support for the Union and Empire above its preference for party. In the long approach to this election we have made clear our support for the fresh air and fresh leadership which Tony Blair has brought to the Opposition; but in 1997 our concerns for the Union are with us still and our preference for global trade over continental ties inevitably colour our view of Labour.

The third theme has been the support of strong unconventional leaders. Both Winston Churchill and Margaret Thatcher received personal support from *The Times* at a level which their parties did not; so too did Joseph Chamberlain and David Owen. John Major, by contrast, has been a true man of his parliamentary machine. His skills are those of a whip. His proudest boasts have been for his powers of negotiation. After receiving cautious support from *The Times* in 1992, the Prime Minister lost us in the chaos of Britain's ejection from Europe's exchange-rate mechanism. In a more robust political age he would have lost his job thereafter as well; in this age he survived, despite time after time confusing stubbornness with strength and, in Norman Lamont's lasting phrase, office with power. In 1995 *The Times* called for a full-scale leadership contest, a proper test of the Prime Minister's support: the Tory party took a different view.

The fourth theme has been a willingness to withhold our support from both people and parties. For long periods there was a clear predisposition here against endorsing a government at the polls. In 1945, the election which many commentators compare to the poll this week, the position of *The Times* was notably opaque. In 1955 it remained neutral. Throughout the Sixties the volume of support for the Liberals was vastly in excess of its muffled calls to vote Conservative. Our strong support of Lady Thatcher in the 1980s was, in this regard, counter to our traditions, not central to them. At the heart of this newspaper is its independence from political favour: to give up that independence even for a day is an act that *The Times* must justify to its readers and itself.

This election campaign has now just two days to run. The plays and pleas of the participants are almost over. Much of what has happened has been predictable and deeply patterned in the past. All those government ministers who have been friendly in Hackney, faithless in Whitehall — would have been as easily recognisable to Pope — and to Dickens and Orwell — as they are to the satirists of today. No less familiar are the old politicians in Taiton and elsewhere who "chew on wisdom past and totter on in business to the last"; the tired and corrupt have always been with us and nothing will change that.

Two developments, however, have been truly striking. The first is the transformation of the Labour Party under Tony Blair into a party that is both electable and about to be elected as the Government of Great Britain. The speed of this change — the abandonment of so many anachronistic and disastrous policies in so short a period of time — has been extraordinary. *The Times* has strongly supported this revolution. So great

has been the speed of change that faith and imagination, rather than firm policy pronouncements, must form the source of optimism for those millions who intend to vote Labour for the first time this week. Even in recent weeks Labour's policies on unions and privatisation, devolution and fishing, have moved so quickly that only its opinion poll lead has seemed to stay the same. And yet the Labour leader has worked hard for the faith that he inspires. We wish him well. Imagination has been much lacking in our government and we shall be happy to see it back. But we do not put our name to what is still a tower of dreams.

The second development is the simultaneous collapse of the body and spirit of the Conservative Party. While Labour has been changing itself, the very momentum of its metamorphosis has been enough to keep it together. For the Conservatives there has been no equivalent movement to keep the party upright. A tiny mandate from 1992, tightening tensions between Right and Left within the party, reactive leadership and unnecessarily prolonged recession have taken a heavy toll.

Both parties have had to deal with the question that, above all others, ought to define this campaign. Both parties, however, are divided about the future of Britain's relationship to the continent of Europe. Neither leadership, therefore, has wanted Europe to be an issue. Yet, somehow, driven by a few brave British politicians and a few careless Brussels bureaucrats, Europe has become the most invigorating subject on the doorsteps in these last electioneering days.

For *The Times* today — and for *The Times*

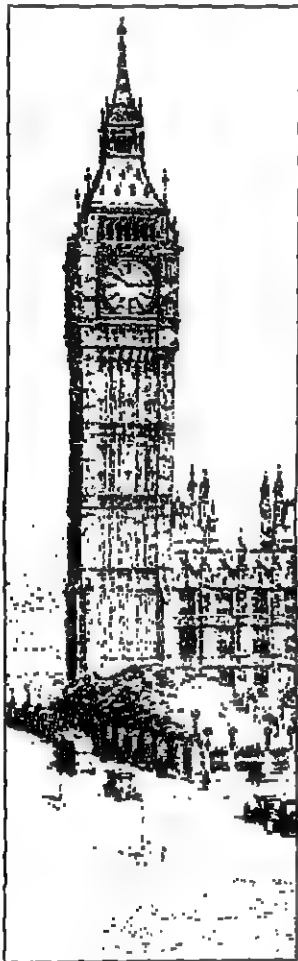
in the spirit of its best past — the European future is the fulcrum of public policy. A proper sense of the choices now facing this country, a profound vision of how the current moves to unite Europe could all so easily bring its collapse, a clear-sighted understanding of the gulf between what our partners say, what they mean and what they really want: that is what Britain needs to be able to vote for at this election. The divergent views on this subject ought to form the line along which the parties divide; but they do not. They form dividing lines only within the parties. In the Conservatives the lines are open and opening further by the day; this process will continue until a new leader matches the spirit of the new MPs. In the Labour Party the lines are largely closed by discipline and fear of defeat; but they may still be uncovered. Our endorsement in this election, therefore, falls not on a party slate but upon individual candidates whose European ideals we can support.

We have made our choices carefully according to our best judgments about the men and women who are standing for election. We ask our readers, however, to supplement our judgment wherever possible with their own. Our endorsed candidates are from six different political parties. Our hope is that the next House of Commons should be as full as possible with those MPs who will give strong, independent consideration to sovereignty, security and competitiveness.

As we argued yesterday, there is no easy choice in this election for those whose main wish is to endorse a policy against the further integration of the European Union. *Times* readers do not, however, need only easy options. The Referendum Party may give some simple relief from the traditional choices; but if the voter aims to make a difference, we do not advise a vote for Sir James Goldsmith's party except in Putney, where the Tory, David Mellor, is an influential supporter of his leadership's hesitant line, and in Reigate, where the former Tory MP and Eurosceptic campaigner, Sir George Gardiner, is the candidate.

More important is a vote in support of the Conservatives who have either proved their sceptical credentials already or who have been emboldened by public opinion and government weakness to declare their hand during the course of this campaign. Of still greater significance is a vote for Labour opponents of further European integration; the greater the numbers of the potential European rebels behind Prime Minister Blair, the stronger the voice of scepticism will be.

In some seats sceptics will have the chance to vote against well known supporters of integration such as Sir Edward Heath, Edwina Currie and Giles Radice. For those who wish to follow this endorsement from *The Times* these opportunities should be grasped as firmly as the chance to cast a positive vote. Yesterday we published the best list possible of those whom we would endorse in this way. In certain other seats, in Northern Ireland for example, different criteria will apply; in some there will be none. On polling day we will publish as full a list as possible, including any amendments and corrections that have been brought to our attention. In the hope that no more power be transferred from Britain, in the best tradition of our past and in the best hope for the future, this is the endorsement that we make.



Britain's future in Europe as factor in voting intentions

From Sir Patrick Cormack, Parliamentary Candidate for Staffordshire South (Conservative)

Sir, Your "Good Eurosceptic voting guide" (April 28) hardly justifies the adjective. Your leader, which does acknowledge that there is an inevitable degree of fudge in your classification, challenges individual candidates to declare themselves.

As one whom you list among the "Europhiles", I have always been implacably opposed to a federal Europe but I do believe most strongly in the need for a cohesive European Union of nation states — and an enlarged one.

I have consistently advocated the advantages of a common, or parallel, currency and expressed no enthusiasm at any time for a single currency, though I believe that the Prime Minister's insistence on Britain's being represented while crucial negotiations are conducted is entirely correct.

A number of those colleagues whom you have listed alongside me take a similar view. Among those you list as worthy of Eurosceptic support are some who would pull out of both Union and single market. Is that the Thunderer's hidden agenda?

Yours faithfully, PATRICK CORMACK, Campaign Headquarters, The First, Station Road, Codsall, South Staffordshire, April 28.

From the National Organisation of the UK Independence Party

Sir, Must we really obey Lord Rees-Mogg ("How to vote sceptically", April 24) and vote for the Tory candidates opposing the single currency in their election addresses despite the official wait and see policy? I wonder whether there would have been quite that number of a pro-Euro millionaire had offered these fine candidates double that given by Mr Paul Sykes, for them to shut up on this subject and toe the party line.

Heaven forbid that the electorate should vote out of "sympathy", as Rees-Mogg puts it, for the motives of parties such as the UKIP, whilst the

opportunity exists to return Conservatives who saved the Maastricht treaty.

Yours sincerely, DAVID LOTT (Parliamentary Candidate for Hexham (UK Independence Party)), Woodhill, Otterburn, Newcastle upon Tyne, April 24.

From Sir Anthony Meyer

Sir, There must be many thousands who remain Conservative because, unlike Emma Nicholson and her colleagues (letter, April 28), we have not finally given up hope of recovering at any rate a large section of our party for its traditional One Nation, pro-European policies. But we shall be voting Liberal Democrat in those constituencies where their candidate comes closest to our ideals, and we hope to see a large Liberal Democrat contingent in the next House of Commons.

I am, etc, ANTHONY MEYER (Conservative MP, 1964-66; 1970-92), 9 Cottage Place, SW3, April 28.

From Mr David Howell

Sir, Sir Michael Butler asserts ("Europe is rooting for Blair", April 21) that "we export more to The Netherlands than to all the Asian tigers put together".

I do not know where he got this "fact" from, but it is quite untrue. The figures in *Economic Trends*, published by the Office of National Statistics, show that for 1995 — the latest available year — the total export earnings from The Netherlands for all British goods and services were £18,866 million.

From Hong Kong, South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand — to take only some of the "tigers" — total export earnings were £21,261 million.

Yours faithfully, DAVID HOWELL, Chalk Croft Farm, Penton Mewsey, Andover, Hampshire, April 21.

View from academe

From Sir Alfred Sherman

Sir, Connaisseurs of verbal sleight of hand will be lost in admiration for your lead letter today, "Academics opt for change on May 1", by tycoons from that surviving nationalised industry, academe. Like Labour's bulldog without private parts, their stirring election address omits to tell readers for whom they should vote.

Is it because the manifestos are divided between merits of two, or even more, paladins of tax and spend? Or are they leaving an escape route in case of a last-minute Tory victory or possible reproaches from potential donors whose largesse they will need whoever wins the election. Are they hedging their bets?

Can academics do no better than the stale jargon of politicians, using "investment" as a euphemism for lavish current expenditure? Could the director of the LSE at least not have considered that the early 19th-century expedient of "the active creation of opportunities for the unemployed", variously known as "public works" and "make work", by siphoning off funds from the sustainable market sector, which was and will remain the main source of employment, thereby reduces sustained employment in that sector? Surely the wealth of cautionary tales in the LSE library should discourage such aphasia. And what, pray, is actually meant by "constructive engagement"?

Is this the best our academics can do?

Yours, ALFRED SHERMAN, 14 Malvern Court, Onslow Square, SW7, April 28.

Politics and farmers

From Mr Oliver Walston

Sir, Mr E. D. Leigh-Pemberton (letter, April 26) objects to Sir Simon Gourlay's endorsement (April 24) of the Labour Party on the ground that the NFU has always been apolitical. Yet the other letter you publish with Mr Leigh-Pemberton's is from Lord Plumb, who became a Conservative MEP four months after retiring from the presidency of the NFU.

It is sad but unsurprising that many farmers appear to have no objection to past presidents being political so long as they are Conservative.

As a working farmer, I will vote Labour with alacrity and enthusiasm.

Yours faithfully, OLIVER WALSTON, Thriplow Farm, Thriplow, Royston, Hertfordshire, April 28.

Tax for education

From Mr David Hunt

Sir, Why the furore about the Liberal Democrats spending a penny on education? Successive governments have been spending a penny on education for years.

Yours, DAVID HUNT, City-an-dour Cottage, Gulval, Penzance, Cornwall.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Science and art in building design

From Mr John Pittuck

Sir, Whenever it seems, the Prince of Wales and building design are mentioned in the same breath we can anticipate an accompanying polarisation of attitudes and opinions.

Mr Alan Becken, FRICS, writing about the Prince's conference centre at Highgrove (letter, April 22), says that the two most important questions to ask about any construction are: "Does the new design satisfy all the client's requirements, and does the building work?"

If I were an architect I would also want to ask: "Is it aesthetically appealing, does it look good?" In other words, does it communicate other than its function and fitness of purpose? We must not assume that Mr Becken's questions automatically take account of this key criterion in distinguishing building from architecture.

Whether or not the chartered building surveyor has been considered the poor relation to the architect, as Mr Becken suggests, matters less than that everyone involved in the process of building design should demonstrate proper regard and respect for the balance between the science and the art employed. We need to encourage professional co-operation and shared ideals rather than argue the merits of who does what.

Yours sincerely, JOHN PITTUCK, Hillside Cottage, 62 Dunmow Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, April 22.

From Mr H. B. McIlveen, FRIBA

Sir, There is a fundamental difference between architects and building surveyors. During a long and rigorous course of study, architects are trained to design buildings, building surveyors are not.

Yours faithfully, HUGH MCILVEEN, Bowback, Honington, Shipston on Stour, Warwickshire, April 22.

From Mr Dennis Berry, FRIBA

Sir, Some 15 years ago, while dean of a faculty which contained schools of both architecture and surveying, I gave much thought to trying to bring these two professional courses closer together: that is, for the architects to gain a greater insight into the economics of building and for the surveyors to achieve some notion of design.

But, even with much goodwill on both sides, the efforts always failed, largely due to the disparity in time between the two courses: seven years for the architects and four years for the surveyors. The surveyors simply did not have enough time for the inclusion of any design theory, no matter how basic.

It is true that the average building designed by a surveyor, while rarely beautiful, is never actually lethal, as would be the results of a surgeon, say, who was denied any experience of an operating theatre during his training. This fact hardly justifies the abandonment of the architect's seven years of education and his protected status.

Yours faithfully, DENNIS BERRY (Dean, Faculty of Professional Studies, Kingston Polytechnic, 1983-87), 11 Fairacre, Acacia Grove, New Malden, Surrey, April 22.

From Mr Derek Woolland, RIBA

Sir, I would not suggest for one moment that all buildings designed by registered architects are necessarily good, nor am I suggesting that those designed by non-qualified designers are necessarily poor. However, the removal of legal protection from the title "architect", as Mr Beckett suggests, would severely limit the means by which potential clients would be able to evaluate the competence of designers.

Mr Beckett rightly stresses the importance of the architect's responsibility to his client, but fails to mention the public for whom the built environment forms the enduring "backdrop" to society. It is not solely the Prince of Wales who will be the judge of the success or otherwise of the Orchard Room at Highgrove.

Yours faithfully, DEREK WOOLLAND, 78 Ravensbury Road, SW18, April 22.

Muses maligned?

From Mr John Clark

Sir, "Despised", "vulgar", "monstrosities"... seldom have I read such wounding remarks about work by a contemporary artist as your Diary's description (April 26) of the statues of the nine muses at the Barbican Centre.

If aesthetics are the main consideration I would say preserve the muses and throw away the Barbican; perhaps functional, but surely one of the worst examples of British architecture ever.

Yours faithfully, JOHN CLARK, Old Barrack Farm, Ebony, Tenterden, Kent, April 28.

Land for housing

From Mr A. W. Tait

Sir, Simon Jenkins [article, April 19; letters, April 26] advances three basic arguments: rural England is being "concreted over"; we should largely ignore Department of the Environment projections that we need to house some four million additional households between 1991 and 2016; even if we do not, we should build all, or nearly all, the extra houses in towns and cities.

Unfortunately, the problem is far more complex than he allows. The DoE projections are not fantasy: more people live longer, the young do leave home earlier and the places where people most want to live are precisely those where he least wants them to live. Should the millions who have bought newly built houses in the country be able to deny others, including their own children and grandchildren, the same opportunity?

The good news is that we are doing quite well. The green belt has been growing, not declining. Many more houses are being built on recycled land. About 87.5 per cent of England and Wales will still be countryside by the year 2000; even in the South East the proportion will be 83 per cent.

The debate is not about whether, in the next 20 or 30 years, the proportion will fall below 80 per cent — it will not

— but whether it will be 81 or 82 per cent. The difference is important but it should be kept in perspective.

Most of England will remain rural, even though the Town and Country Planning Association considers that it is unlikely to be possible to put even half of all new houses in towns and cities. Seven major cities have told the association that they are likely to run out of land between 2006 and 2011.

A useful step might be to set up an independent "Housing Land Review Body", which would periodically encounter opinion with facts and with independent commentary on the competing claims of the pressure groups. This might help promote a higher standard of debate in local councils; it would also make it easier for government to overturn decisions where a council has been too influenced by the desire to pass the buck.

Meanwhile, though many planning authorities do a good job, increasing housing demand is leading to further planning delays and an escalation of land price. The new government will have to deal with a kettle coming to the boil.

Yours faithfully, ANDREW TAIT (Chairman, New Homes Environmental Group, 1988-90), Orchard Croft, Grimms Hill, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, April 23.

PC subsidy

From the President and the Director General of the Federation of the Electronics Industry

Sir, Several European countries, in order to maintain their competitiveness in the world economy, are considering the introduction of fiscal incentives for individuals or organisations to use personal computers and computer education.

The Swedish Department of Finance, for instance, has proposed that companies to their employees for home education and electronic commerce should be free from tax under certain conditions: the French Government has recommended a VAT reduction of 5 to 7 per cent on home PC purchases; and the Irish Government is considering the introduction of tax allowances for the purchase of PCs for home use and for payment of fees for PC training.

May we suggest that our political parties consider fiscal incentives as part of their programmes to ensure that in the future the UK keeps up with the best in the world.

Yours faithfully, K. CHAPPLE, President, ANTHONY PARISH, Director General, Federation of the Electronics Industry, Russell Square House, 10-12 Russell Square, WC1, April 18.

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Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

OBITUARIES

THE REV PROFESSOR W. MOELWYN MERCHANT

The Rev Professor W. Moelwyn Merchant, Merchant, Shakespearean scholar and sculptor, died in Leamington Spa on April 22 aged 83. He was born at Port Talbot on June 5, 1913.

In a life of great variety, Moelwyn Merchant applied his colourful talents and abundant energies in a number of spheres. He was an Anglican clergyman and a canon of Salisbury Cathedral; he was from 1961 to 1974 Professor of English at Exeter University; he was a prolific sculptor, a poet and had latterly published a number of novels.

As a scholar he was more prolific as an editor than as a writer, though his study, *Shakespeare and the Artist*, is an absorbing account of Shakespearean production down the ages. It announced an informed interest in the staging of the works of Shakespeare which was to permeate his teaching. This was underpinned by his involvement in the founding of the Northcott Theatre at Exeter, the first modern theatre to be built in the South West of England.

Merchant's contribution to English studies lay, perhaps, not so much in his writings as in his personality and the effect he had on others. To generations of English students at Exeter he is remembered for generating an enthusiasm for the subject which permeated their lives to a greater extent than, perhaps, general in undergraduates. He so manifestly liked young people, he took an infectious delight in any extra-curricular activity, whether it might be leading a Shakespeare seminar to Stratford-upon-Avon or inviting students round to his home to make a recording of Beat poetry and sample his wife's delicious teas. His students reciprocated this enthusiasm by giving their own tutors no rest, dragging them into bars and pubs in their off-duty hours and compelling them to continue the literary debate until closing time and beyond.

In the young Exeter University of those days (it had previously been a university college of London), Merchant galvanised his department into a position of pre-eminence and put



English at the centre of intellectual activity. With a staff containing men like John Spels, Patrick Crutwell, H. A. Mason, and K. W. Salter, it was generally regarded as second, after Cambridge, in the country. It was also a broad church which provided harbourage both for fugitive Leavisites and those who were fundamentally opposed to the dogmatism of the Master.

Merchant defended his fief against the material claims of other departments with jealousy and guile. Many a rival arts faculty professor who thought he had got the better of the head of English over some administrative detail at a faculty board meeting, would find himself suddenly outmanoeuvred and confounded.

Merchant's mercurial character and his priestly calling gave his lectures something of an evangelical quality. Speaking without notes, he seldom stayed at the podium for long, preferring, rather, to range up and

down the aisles of the lecture hall and dart the subject of his discourse at his audience seated to left and right of him.

His Shakespeare lecture to the University Summer School — which attracted both undergraduate and postgraduate students of the highest quality from all over the world — was legendary. Iron-sided theoreticians of the English schools of Göttingen and Marburg were, in spite of themselves, overwhelmed by the sheer fervour of his address. His impassioned exordium, delivered in his lilting Welsh tenor, "I believe Shakespeare's *King Lear* to be the greatest work of art ever to be created, in any medium, by any man," resounded in English faculties throughout the universities of Europe.

Merchant's retirement from the Exeter chair saw no diminution of his activities. Returning to Wales for a period, he was Vicar of Llanddewi

Bref for several years; he published several volumes of poems; he wrote a number of novels and an award-winning autobiography; and he sculpted energetically, exhibiting in venues from Plymouth to London and from Aberystwyth to Glasgow.

William Moelwyn Merchant was educated at Port Talbot Grammar and University College, Cardiff, where he took degrees in English and History in 1933 and 1934. He then spent a year at Carmarthen Grammar School before moving to Newport High School to teach English and thence to Caerleon Training College. He joined the staff of University College, Cardiff, in 1939.

By the time he went to the chair at Exeter in 1961 he had already published his *Wordsworth's Guide to the Lakes* (1952) with its illustrations by John Piper. This was followed by his edition of Wordsworth for the Reynard Library in 1955. He also did

editions of Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* and Marlowe's *Edward the Second*.

His own best-known book, *Shakespeare and the Artist* (1959), explored the history of stage design and the increasing involvement of major European painters in that process. It also set a trend for what became the "literature and the visual arts" arm of English studies in which Merchant was a pioneer, establishing a degree in English and the Fine Arts (as well as English and Music).

Merchant had been ordained a priest in 1940. From 1960 he spent a good deal of the time during four pleasant years as biblical adviser and co-writer, with Christopher Fry and others, on John Huston's epic film *The Bible*. It sharpened Merchant's appetite for travel and he had the knack of "collecting" research students from around the world for the graduate school. In 1966 he brought Ted Hughes to Exeter as poet in residence. His passion for music led to his writing the libretto of Alun Hoddinott's oratorio *The Tree of Life* (1972), among other works by the composer.

After his retirement from the Exeter chair, Merchant was vicar of Llanddewi Brefi from 1974 to 1978. It was characteristic of him that the duties of that remote rural cure could not entirely absorb his energies, and in 1975 this tiny Cardiganshire village found itself with an arts festival.

From Wales he retired to Leamington Spa, but this "retirement" saw no diminution of his creative impulse. He published three volumes of poetry and, in 1987, his first novel *Jeshua*, at the ripe old age of 74. This was followed by several more: *Fire From the Heights* (1989), *A Bundle of Reagents* (1989) and *Triple Heritage* (1994). At the same time numerous one-man shows of his sculptures were held throughout Britain. An activity that gave him particular pleasure in the last years of his life was the lectures he gave at Eton College, and his being made an honorary member of the Old Etonian Association in 1990.

Moelwyn Merchant married, in 1938, Maria Eluned (Lynne) Hughes. He is survived by her and by a son and a daughter.

MARGERY MANNERS

Margery Manners, variety artist and singer, died on April 27 aged 71. She was born on March 18, 1926.

MARGERY MANNERS was one of Britain's most respected and best loved variety artists. In a career that spanned more than half a century she topped bills throughout the country, played the London Palladium on several occasions, as well as being a noted singer on radio.

Her life in showbusiness fell neatly into two parts. As a young girl she was a notable principal boy in pantomimes and often compared to her contemporaries, or indeed rivals, Dorothy Ward and Pat Kirkwood because of her shapely figure. In later years the figure became more portly and — much to Manners' delight — critics would describe her as a latter-day *Florie Forde*, the well-known round music hall performer. She was flattered by the comparison and once quipped: "When I was a child in the Midlands people would say they would go to see Florie because of her 'bum'. So I'm following in her footsteps."

Margery Manners was born in Coventry and made her first appearance as a child singer and dancer in 1937 at the Paramount Cinema in Birmingham in a "cine variety" show. *Cine Variety* was the most popular entertainment of the day where an audience could see two films, a newsreel, a variety show, personal appearances by film stars, and all of it for usually sixpence.

She was contracted to appear in such shows, her speciality being that of singing, playing the banjo and sometimes the ukelele. After being spotted in the provinces by Moss Empires, she made her first London appearance at the East Ham Palace in 1940 where she starred alongside "Big" Bill Campbell in a Western show where she played a cowgirl. The show was so successful that Moss Empires took it on tour for more than two years.

During the Second World War she was the youngest performer ever to appear for Ensa, touring the Orkneys

and Iceland and singing on battleships at Scapa Floe alongside such comedians as Arthur Askey, Vic Oliver, Ted Ray and Jewell Hicks.

She renewed her contract with Stoll Music after the war and appeared in no fewer than 16 pantomimes at leading theatres as a dashing principal boy alongside such comedians as Arthur Askey, Vic Oliver, Ted Ray and Jewell Hicks.

During the 1960s she was in demand for smaller provincial variety bills as a guest star but it was in 1969 that she was virtually rediscovered by the producer Audrey Lane who gave her billing in what was to become the long running show *The Golden Years of Music Hall*. This was an extraordinary show made up of music hall legends who included Bob and Alf Pearson, Nat Jackley, Elsie and Doris Waters and Sandy Powell. It opened to rave reviews at the West Pier in Brighton and was a sellout at the box office and subsequently transferred to South Africa, where it played for more than five years. It was there that she met her husband, Walter Cradock, who was serving as the Mayor of Cape Town, and during the run of the show she suddenly eloped with him.

After returning to England in the 1970s, ill-health forced her into semi-retirement but she was coaxed out of it by the comedian Roy Hudd to top the bill at the London Palladium in 1975 for a special show organised by the British Music Hall Society. She received a standing ovation on her entrance and sang her signature tune *Bring Me The Sunshine of Your Smile*. A photograph of her still hangs in the Palladium Hall of Fame.

She was an active charity worker throughout her life, most notably for the Grand Order of Lady Rattings, of which she had been a member for many years and later for the Stars Organisation for Spastics.

Her husband predeceased her.

ALFRED BADEN FULLER

Alfred Baden Fuller, barrister and Commons Commissioner, died on March 27 aged 90. He was born on January 1, 1907.

NOBODY in 1965 foresaw the quantity of litigation and popular interest which the Commons Registration Act of that year would produce. This Act made it necessary to register any land which was claimed to be a common or a village green. It created commis-

sioners to adjudicate upon whether registrations should be confirmed.

When Alfred Baden Fuller was appointed in 1972 as one of the three commissioners, he was told that there was only another five years' work to be done. In fact, the number of claims so much exceeded expectation that he and his fellow commissioners were still at work 18 years later.

Disputes over common land often aroused strong emotions in the local community. A

commissioner required not only a detailed knowledge of one of the least known areas of English law but also the ability to be fair to the numerous contending parties.

Baden Fuller had both the legal learning and the human qualities required. Dartmoor was his triumph. Most commons are fairly small. But when between April and September 1982 he sat to determine the commoners' rights on Dartmoor there were 1,000 registrations to consider af-

fecting pieces of land which together amounted to more than 50 square miles.

With such keen popular interest and so many claimants involved, a large hall was needed to accommodate the hearings at Plymouth. Baden Fuller's necessarily lengthy judgment in that case was described as a legal tour de force. He was responsible for other decisions relating to moorland such as the Black Mountain in Dyfed.

Before his appointment as a Commons Commissioner, Baden Fuller was one of the small number of "senior juniors" at the Chancery Bar, a class usually unknown to the wider public, but who commanded great respect within the legal profession.

Educated at Uppingham School he went on to Balliol College, Oxford, as a mathematics scholar in 1925 and gained first-class honours in mathematics. While at university he took up mountaineering.

Alfred Aubone Baden Fuller was called to the Chancery Bar in 1930 and became the pupil of Stafford Crossman (the father of the future Labour Cabinet Minister). In 1932 he joined the set of Chambers of which his father Frank Baden Fuller was then the head. His progress at the Bar was interrupted by the outbreak of war in 1939, when he came back from the war in 1946 his father had died and only two other members of the pre-war set remained. They had, like him, been away fighting and had to rebuild their practices.

Baden Fuller now became head of chambers himself and for the next 35 years carried on a successful and varied practice. Trusts, wills, estate duty, landlord and tenant disputes and wardship of minors all formed a part of his work but

he had a particular mastery of Chancery procedure, above all in the administration of estates.

Several times personal representatives who thought that they had an insolvent estate to administer came to him for advice and he was able to achieve the feat (which would have astonished the author of *Bleak House*) of steering the apparently insolvent estate into solvency or even a handsome surplus. Baden Fuller's guileless exterior concealed a subtle brain. His manner in court was anything but charismatic but opponents underestimated him at their peril.

He became a Bench of Lincoln's Inn in 1964. There he did much work for the students (who in those days came in large numbers from the Commonwealth as well as from the UK).

For many years he was the chairman of the Joint Committee of the Inns of Court and the Council of Legal Education on Admissions. While at the Bar he was a long-serving secretary of the Chancery Bar Association.

Outside the law he remained an enthusiastic hill-walker. He kept up his mathematics by solving algebraic equations as a lunchtime relaxation. In Wimbledon, where he lived throughout his life, he was for many years the president of the Literary and Scientific Society, a trustee of the John Evelyn Society (now the Wimbledon Society) and a governor of King's College School.

He retired as a commissioner in 1990 and the next year suffered a severe stroke. True to his character, he remained cheerful and courteous under this burden.

In 1940 Baden Fuller married Alice Strickland. She predeceased him in 1976. He is survived by two daughters and a son.

PERSONAL COLUMN

FOR SALE

A BIRTHDAY Newspaper. Original. Supportive. 1996. 1997. 1998. 1999. 2000. 2001. 2002. 2003. 2004. 2005. 2006. 2007. 2008. 2009. 2010. 2011. 2012. 2013. 2014. 2015. 2016. 2017. 2018. 2019. 2020. 2021. 2022. 2023. 2024. 2025. 2026. 2027. 2028. 2029. 2030. 2031. 2032. 2033. 2034. 2035. 2036. 2037. 2038. 2039. 2040. 2041. 2042. 2043. 2044. 2045. 2046. 2047. 2048. 2049. 2050. 2051. 2052. 2053. 2054. 2055. 2056. 2057. 2058. 2059. 2060. 2061. 2062. 2063. 2064. 2065. 2066. 2067. 2068. 2069. 2070. 2071. 2072. 2073. 2074. 2075. 2076. 2077. 2078. 2079. 2080. 2081. 2082. 2083. 2084. 2085. 2086. 2087. 2088. 2089. 2090. 2091. 2092. 2093. 2094. 2095. 2096. 2097. 2098. 2099. 2100. 2101. 2102. 2103. 2104. 2105. 2106. 2107. 2108. 2109. 2110. 2111. 2112. 2113. 2114. 2115. 2116. 2117. 2118. 2119. 2120. 2121. 2122. 2123. 2124. 2125. 2126. 2127. 2128. 2129. 2130. 2131. 2132. 2133. 2134. 2135. 2136. 2137. 2138. 2139. 2140. 2141. 2142. 2143. 2144. 2145. 2146. 2147. 2148. 2149. 2150. 2151. 2152. 2153. 2154. 2155. 2156. 2157. 2158. 2159. 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Middlesbrough troupers vital to fantasy winners



WITHOUT play in the premier leagues in England and Scotland over the weekend, the tactically aware among Interactive Team Football players looked to the midweek matches of the past week for vital points as the season nears its climax.

Middlesbrough were most people's choice for a good source of points, with two games counting — the FA Cup semi-final replay against Chesterfield and the game against Tottenham Hotspur. Hence the appearance of Fabrizio Ravanelli and Juninho in the teams of the weekly winner, the monthly winner, and indeed the overall leader of ITF.

But the "bargain buy" of the week was a Chelsea player: Dan Petrescu, with seven points to his name. Emerson, with five points, was also worthy of selection last week — along with a number of goalkeepers, none of whom conceded any goals over the past seven days.

The winner of the monthly prize, and £1,000, is Mr D. Ingham, of Oldham, who scored 81 points during April with his team Feb 2. The weekly winner is Mr D. Windridge, of Nuneaton, whose team, Croft Corinthians, scored 36 points. He wins £250.

Mr Windridge's team is:

Goalkeeper
N Martyn (Leeds)

Full backs
G Kelly (Leeds)
D Petrescu (Chelsea)

Central defenders
T Boyd (Leeds)
S Campbell (Tottenham)

Midfield players
D Barry (Newcastle)
Juninho (Middlesbrough)



Petrescu's goal against Wimbledon propelled the Chelsea wing back to seven points in ITF this week



A Sinton (Tottenham)
A Thom (Leeds)

Strikers
D Holdsworth (Wimbledon)
F Ravanelli (Middlesbrough)

Manager
R Guillot (Chelsea)

You can still use the ITF transfer system, even though the regular transfer system has ended for the season.

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

There are no transfers or loans in Interactive Team Football this week.

which allows you to change up to two players each week and to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Cup Premiership or Bell's Scottish League premier division.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 886 968 line during the times given. From outside the United Kingdom, you must call 0044 990 200 668.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the prizes — the overall £50,000 monthly £1,000 or weekly £250.

All Interactive Team Football transfer queries should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582 488 122.

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All 1996-7 matches in the FA Cup Premiership, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League premier division and Tensent's Scottish Cup from August 17 count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS SCORED		
Goalkeeper	4pts	Striker
Keeps clean sheet*	4pts	Saves goal
Saves penalty	3pts	All players
Full back/Central defender	1pt	Appearance
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Scored hat-trick
Scored goal	3pts	Team wins
Midfield player	3pts	Team draws
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt	
Scored goal	2pts	

POINTS DEDUCTED		
Goalkeeper	2pts	Booked
Concedes goal	2pts	Concedes penalty
Full back/Central defender	1pt	Misses penalty
Concedes goal	1pt	Scored own goal
All players	3pts	Manager
Sent off	3pts	Team losses

* must have played for 75 minutes in the match

* must have played for 45 minutes in the match

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 886 968

If telephoning from outside the United Kingdom call 44 990 200 668.

You may make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector PIN, which you will have to tap in, not speak. Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players you are transferring.

You may only make transfers in one team per telephone call. If you have entered two teams and want to make transfers in both, you must make two separate calls.

You may transfer two (but no more than two) individuals (two players or one player and a manager) during a transfer week. A player being transferred out must be replaced by one from the same category and you must keep to the team format of a goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, four midfield players, two strikers and a manager. You must not exceed the £25 million budget and have no more than two individuals from the same club. Incorrect transfers will be rejected and your team will remain in its previous form.

The transfer week runs from 00.01 on Tuesday to midnight the following Monday. Transfers made before noon each day will become effective immediately. Transfers made after noon will become effective for matches played after noon on the following day.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You must adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

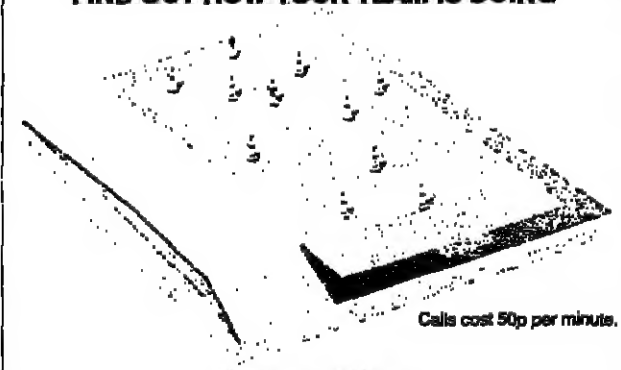
Calls will be charged at 50p per minute. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Player out		Player code	
Club			
Player in			
Club			

THE LEADING 250 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL GAME

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Turner's Earners 5	(P Turner)	768
2	Edmo Utd	(D Edmondson)	754
3	Sophie And Sam	(G Foster)	754
4	Jones Boys Three	(M Jones)	751
5	Turner's Earners 3	(P Turner)	741
6	Nobby 32	(J Brown)	739
7	Nobby	(J Brown)	738
8	Brain's Team	(B Howes)	734
9	John Hunt Taurton D	(J Hunt)	733
10	Bob's Boys 2	(J Calder)	732
11	John Hunt Taurton H	(J Hunt)	728
12	Nobby 4	(J Brown)	728
13	Pin Up Two	(P Tuxler)	727
14	12 Angry Men	(D Cook)	722
15	Nonschall AFC 3	(R J Ward)	722
16	Dour Rangers 3	(J Clayton)	717
17	Nobby 21	(J Brown)	714
18	Nobby 28	(J Brown)	714
19	Nobby 11	(J Brown)	714
20	Icarus	(B Wells)	711
21	AB 4	(A Boyland)	709
22	Nobby 33	(J Brown)	706
23	John Hunt Taurton G	(J Hunt)	704
24	Daggers	(V Cox)	703
25	Jabberwocky	(P A Amoss)	703
26	Beeston Celtic	(B McGivern)	700
27	Turner's Earners 1	(P Turner)	698
28	AB	(M Baber)	696
29	Nobby 21	(J Brown)	695
30	Jones Boys Eight	(M Jones)	691
31	A	(M Corless)	691
32	Patrick Bilbao 3	(J Hamilton)	690
33	Nash's Ark	(G P Dolan)	689
34	Uni Boys Utd 1	(B Gardiner)	688
35	Blythe Spartans	(T Blythe)	688
36	BCFC 1998	(J Blythe)	681
37	Blindrunners	(P Walters)	679
38	Western FC	(M Kirkwood)	679
39	Inter The Stand	(M Ward)	680
40	Mean Machine	(P Ford)	680
41	Turner's Earners 6	(P Turner)	680
42	Turner's Earners 4	(P Turner)	680
43	Hunter's Mob	(C Hunter)	680
44	Slorn	(P Mills)	679
45	Scholes For Goals	(K Scholes)	678
46	Midfield Magic	(J Progon)	678
47	Teddy Three	(B Bear)	677
48	Millie	(R Lookyer)	677
49	Bob's Boys 4	(R Calder)	677
50	Tur	(P Turner)	676
51	Nobby 25	(J Brown)	676
52	Where's Ray Gone?	(P Fromm)	675
53	Kryslanis 2	(S Roberts)	674
54	Club 15-30 Tessa	(A Robinson)	674
55	Fair Academicals	(A Kirkwood)	674
56	Jones Boys Sky	(M Jones)	672
57	John Hunt Taurton F	(J Hunt)	672
58	Garforth Seahawks	(I Doughty)	672
59	Inter The Pub	(M Ward)	671
60	Thom Foolery FC	(M Horan)	670
61	JJB Sports	(A Bates)	670
62	Bonny Boys	(R Crook)	667
63	Orville Classics	(J Bradshaw)	667
64	Irwin's Best	(L Sampson)	667
65	Always Portugal 1	(V Guimaraes)	667
66	You're Not Very Well	(R Laskowski)	666
67	1970 Jr FC	(J Ross)	666
68	Gestalt	(R Rowe)	666
69	Bob's Boys 1	(R Calder)	665
70	Abc	(M Baber)	665

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING



Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector PIN. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
71	Nobby 7	(J Brown)	664
72	Jan 2	(J Clayton)	663
73	Concrete Banana	(S Mingle)	663
74	Bob's Boys 3	(R Calder)	663
75	Man City Free Zone	(D Ingham)	663
76	Nobby 3	(J Brown)	662
77	Tulip's Tops	(D Tulip)	661
78	Murray's Mates	(D Anderson)	660
79	John Hunt Taurton E	(J Hunt)	660
80	John Hunt Taurton C	(J Hunt)	659
81	Nobby 12	(J Brown)	659
82	Born Losers	(P Turner)	658
83	Inter The Unknown	(P Barnett)	657
84	The Dummies 1	(D Shields)	657
85	DJS 2	(D Santori)	656
86	Joking	(P Fallon)	656
87	Elanore United	(P Leader)	656
88	Doppelgangerout	(J Whaling)	656
89	Brainbow United	(G Wales)	655
90	Set Against Cys	(S Shipley)	654
91	Bad Time Boys	(R Crook)	654
92	Team C	(A Lona)	654
93	PJB Rovers	(P J Butler)	653
94	Caroline B	(A Luckhurst)	649
95	Inter The Wallet	(M Ward)	652
96	Bubwith Utd 5	(M Lacombe)	649
97	Nobby 28	(J Brown)	652
98	Glenn Duffers	(S Wilson)	651
99	Sam Shanks	(S Shankar)	651
100	Enid Four	(J Feather)	650
101	Top Banana	(M Bottomley)	650
102	Nobby 20	(J Brown)	650
103	Ball Watchers	(J Murray)	649
104	Elbrey's 1st XI	(S Beldrick)	649
105	AJK	(K Hughes)	649
106	LFC Champs 9897	(B Fazakarley)	649
107	Enid 2	(J Hagger)	648
108	Nobby 14	(J Brown)	647
109	Raj Is Back To Kill 6	(R Gohil)	647
110	PJ Thistle	(R Newbould)	647
111	Nobby 5	(J Brown)	646

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
112	Def Con 3	(M Pack)	645
113	Vats	(K Howson)	645
114	Simba's Dream	(A Kitchen)	644
115	Inter The Biscuits	(J Brown)	644
116	Nail Madrid	(R Ralcliffe)	644
117	Bob's Boys 5	(R Calder)	644
118	Jones Boys One	(M Jones)	643
119	Murray's Magicians	(M MacMillan)	643
120	Caught Lucky	(C Wright)	642
121	Northern Lights	(C Wright)	642
122	Kinky Imports	(J Brown)	642
123	Infiniti George	(M Robinson)	641
124	Mars FC	(M Baber)	641
125	Animals	(L Clark)	641
126	A2	(K Farhall)	640
127	Byzantine Bricks	(S Houghton)	639
128	No Midfield	(J B Portwood)	639
129	MSF Monstrosities	(J Stasiukiewicz)	639
130	It's About Revenge C	(R Gohil)	637
131	Becard Boys	(M Woodley)	637
132	Caroline D	(A Luckhurst)	637
133	Burnet Boys	(A Sharpe)	637
134	Langdon Longballs	(M Ward)	637
135	Nobby 34	(J Brown)	637
136	Abdus	(I Fyfe)	637
137	Caroline C	(S A Luckhurst)	636
138	Agepanthus FC	(W Heslop)	636
139	Come On You Rocks	(no name)	635
140	Porcelain Dogs	(A Ibbson)	635
141	Lyne's Lions	(L Horne)	635
142	Star Chamber	(M MacMillan)	634
143	Grafton Willows	(R J Brown)	634
144	I Hate Alan Hansen	(V Cox)	634
145	John Hunt Taurton A	(J Hunt)	634
146	Skyforest	(A Burton)	634
147	Wingless Wonders	(P Paynter)	633
148	The Far Side	(C Headfield)	633
149	Shot On Sight 2	(P Goldsaw)	632
150	Diplomatic Risk	(P Pritchard)	632
151	Billy No Mats X	(M Madden)	632
152	Miner Fantasy League	(M Madden)	632
153	S Gill Taurton A	(S Gill)	632
154	Fendon United	(E Cowen)	631
155	Bugle Navies	(D Banks)	631
156	JD 3	(J Donaldson)	631
157	Cookie's Gunners	(J Brown)	630
158	Burg Hol	(G Watson)	630
159	Ravn's Dream Team	(M Ravn)	630
160	Bob Hope And No Hope	(J Swirles)	629
161	JS August Monthly 1	(R Crook)	629
162	The Loggers	(A Lona)	629
163	The Winners VW	(P Paynter)	629
164	Patel One	(P Patel)	628
165	Raj Is Back To Kill 5	(R Gohil)	628
166	Three Tabletoppers	(M A Kennedy)	628
167	Wassack	(M Huggill)	627
168	Inter Outers	(R Johnson)	627
169	Holstenites	(D Blair)	627
170	Enid Four	(J Feather)	627
171	Havok	(P Williamson)	627
172	Vat	(K Howson)	627
173	Gondings	(P Paynter)	626
174	Yaboyak	(D Davidson)	626
175	Lloyd's Barge	(D Goodwin)	626
176	Lesley's Legmen	(L Michaelis)	626
177	Gangsters	(A Lone)	625
178	Back In Bristol	(D Stone)	625
179	Dea Boot	(D A Sutton)	625
180	Schoko Zoo	(P Roach)	625
181	Inverness Undecided	(M A Kennedy)	625

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CHANGING TIMES

Code	Name	Team
1001	M Watt	Aberdeen
1002	N Walker	Aberdeen
1003	D Seaman	Aberdeen
1004	V Bartram	Aberdeen
1005	J Lukic	Aberdeen
1006	M Bosnich	Aberdeen
1007	M Oakes	Aberdeen
1008	T Flowers	Aberdeen
1009	S Given	Aberdeen
1010	G Marshall	Aberdeen
1011	S Kerr	Aberdeen
1012	D Khazanchi	Aberdeen
1013	K Hitchcock	Aberdeen
1014	F Groves	Aberdeen
1015	S O'Connell	Aberdeen
1016	J Flett	Aberdeen
1017	M Taylor	Aberdeen
1018	R Hall	Aberdeen
1019	A Maxwell	Aberdeen
1020	L Key	Aberdeen
1021	S Dyball	Aberdeen
1022	I Westwater	Aberdeen
1023	N Southall	Aberdeen
1024	P Gerrard	Aberdeen
1025	G Ross	Aberdeen
1026	J Leighton	Aberdeen
1027	D Leckie	Aberdeen
1028	N Beattie	Aberdeen
1029	M Starry	Aberdeen
1030	K Poole	Aberdeen
1031	K Koller	Aberdeen
1032	D James	Aberdeen
1033	A Warner	Aberdeen
1034	J Nielsen	Aberdeen
1035	P Schuster	Aberdeen
1036	R van der Grint	Aberdeen
1037	G Hales	Aberdeen
1038	S Roberts	Aberdeen
1039	M Schwarzer	Aberdeen
1040	S Howe	Aberdeen
1041	S Kippax	Aberdeen
1042	P Simcox	Aberdeen
1043	M Crossley	Aberdeen
1044	A Feths	Aberdeen
1045	S Thomson	Aberdeen
1046	A Geram	Aberdeen
1047	A Dieble	Aberdeen
1048	K Pressman	Aberdeen
1049	M Clarke	Aberdeen
1050	D Bennett	Aberdeen
1051	K Bass	Aberdeen
1052	A Taylor	Aberdeen
1053	L Perez	Aberdeen
1054	A Colon	Aberdeen
1055	L Walker	Aberdeen
1056	E Baardse	Aberdeen
1057	L Milnes	Aberdeen
1058	N Sullivan	Aberdeen
1059	P Heald	Aberdeen

FULL B

Code	Name	Team
2001	S McKinnon	Aberdeen
2002	L Dixon	Aberdeen
2003	N Winterburn	Aberdeen
2004	S Staunton	Aberdeen
2005	A Wright	Aberdeen
2006	G Charles	Aberdeen
2007	F Nelson	Aberdeen
2008	H Berg	Aberdeen
2009	G Le Saux	Aberdeen
2010	R Kerr	Aberdeen
2011	J McNamee	Aberdeen
2012	T McNulty	Aberdeen
2013	D Petros	Aberdeen
2014	S Clarke	Aberdeen
2015	S Mintz	Aberdeen
2016	D Buttace	Aberdeen
2017	B Borrows	Aberdeen
2018	M Hall	Aberdeen
2019	C Fosse	Aberdeen
2020	D Yates	Aberdeen
2021	M Macias	Aberdeen
2022	M Perry	Aberdeen
2023	N Duffy	Aberdeen
2024	C Miller	Aberdeen
2025	A Todd	Aberdeen
2026	A Henderson	Aberdeen
2027	A Phelan	Aberdeen
2028	C Fosse	Aberdeen
2029	G Lock	Aberdeen
2030	N Pontin	Aberdeen
2031	M Miller	Aberdeen
2032	A Dow	Aberdeen
2033	M MacFarlane	Aberdeen
2034	G Kelly	Aberdeen
2035	A Dorigo	Aberdeen
2036	H Hall	Aberdeen
2037	S Grayson	Aberdeen
2038	R Jones	Aberdeen
2039	F Roling	Aberdeen
2040	S Bjornness	Aberdeen
2041	S Harkness	Aberdeen
2042	D Irvine	Aberdeen
2043	G Neville	Aberdeen
2044	N Cox	Aberdeen
2045	C Kerr	Aberdeen
2046	S Fleming	Aberdeen
2047	C Blackmore	Aberdeen
2048	V Kinder	Aberdeen
2049	S McMillan	Aberdeen
2050	W Barton	Aberdeen
2051	S Watson	Aberdeen
2052	S Elliot	Aberdeen
2053	S Stafford	Aberdeen
2054	S Pearce	Aberdeen
2055	L Lytle	Aberdeen
2056	A Halsland	Aberdeen
2057	N Jerkan	Aberdeen
2058	P Bonar	Aberdeen
2059	D Kirkwood	Aberdeen
2060	R Robertson	Aberdeen
2061	I Nolan	Aberdeen
2062	A Asherton	Aberdeen
2063	S Stefanovic	Aberdeen
2064	L Briscoe	Aberdeen
2065	D Dodd	Aberdeen
2066	F Benali	Aberdeen
2067	S Charlton	Aberdeen
2068	D Kubicki	Aberdeen
2069	M Scott	Aberdeen
2070	G Hogg	Aberdeen
2071	J Eriksson	Aberdeen
2072	S Goun	Aberdeen
2073	C Wilson	Aberdeen
2074	J Edinburg	Aberdeen
2075	R Kerslake	Aberdeen
2076	S Carr	Aberdeen
2077	J Dicks	Aberdeen
2078	B Breacker	Aberdeen
2079	K Rowland	Aberdeen
2080	M Bowen	Aberdeen
2081	B Hatcher	Aberdeen
2082	A Kimble	Aberdeen
2083	C Cunningham	Aberdeen
2084	D Jupp	Aberdeen
2085	C Perry	Aberdeen

CENTRAL D

The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	Ov
10101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	0	-12	
10102	M Walker	Aberdeen	1.00	0	-14	
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	-1	+38	
10202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.75	0	0	
10301	M Bonnich	Aston Villa	0.75	0	+1	
10302	M Oakes	Aston Villa	3.50	+5	+29	
10401	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-1	+2	
10402	S Given	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+1	
10501	G Marshall	Celtic	3.50	0	-1	
10502	S Kerr	Celtic	3.00	-1	+30	
10601	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0	+10	
10602	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	2.00	0	-27	
10603	F Grodas	Chelsea	3.00	0	-11	
10701	S Ogilvie	Coventry City	1.50	-2	-38	
10702	J Flann	Coventry City	0.50	0	0	
10801	M Taylor	Derby County	1.00	+5	-2	
10802	R Hault	Derby County	1.00	0	-41	
10803	M Poom	Derby County	1.00	0	-2	
10901	A Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50	0	+10	
10902	L Key	Dundee United	0.50	0	-4	
10903	S Dykstra	Dundee United	2.50	-1	-1	
11001	I Westwater	Dunfermline	0.50	0	-85	
11101	N Southall	Everton	2.50	0	-28	
11102	P Gerrard	Everton	2.50	0	+1	
11201	G Rousset	Harts	2.00	0	-5	
11301	J Leighton	Hibernian	1.50	0	-24	
11401	D Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	+5	-31	
11501	M Beeny	Leeds United	1.50	0	+5	
11502	P Evans	Leeds United	0.25	0	0	
11503	N Martyn	Leeds United	2.50	+3	+36	
11601	K Koller	Leicester City	1.00	0	-19	
11602	K Koller	Leicester City	1.00	0	-19	
11701	D James	Liverpool	5.00	-1	+19	
11702	A Warner	Liverpool	0.50	0	0	
11703	J Nielsen	Liverpool	1.00	0	0	
11801	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	0	+6	
11802	R van der Gouw	Manchester United	1.00	0	+2	
11901	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-20	
11902	S Roberts	Middlesbrough	1.50	+4	-1	
11903	M Schwarzer	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+3	
12001	S Howie	Motherwell	1.50	0	-22	
12101	S Hlop	Newcastle United	4.00	0	-18	
12102	P Smiech	Newcastle United	3.00	0	0	
12201	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0	-49	
12202	A Fettes	Nottingham Forest	0.75	+5	+2	
12301	S Thomson	Raith Rovers	0.50	0	-74	
12401	A Goran	Rangers	5.00	0	+29	
12402	P Dible	Rangers	3.50	0	+10	
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	-7	-6	
12502	M Clarke	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	0	
12601	D Beasant	Southampton	1.00	0	-28	
12602	N Moss	Southampton	0.25	0	+2	
12603	M Taylor	Southampton	1.00	+5	+3	
12702	L Perez	Sunderland	0.50	-1	-42	
11803	A Coton	Sunderland	1.00	0	+9	
12801	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	+5	-8	
12802	E Stannard	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0	
12901	M Mikosko	West Ham United	2.00	+5	-21	
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	1.00	-1	-1	
13002	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.00	0	-4	

FULL BACKS

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	Ov
20101	S McKimmie	Aberdeen	2.00	0	+8	
20201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	0	+39	
20202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	0	+49	
20301	S Staunton	Aston Villa	3.00	+4	+43	
20302	A Wright	Aston Villa	3.00	+4	+65	
20303	G Charles	Aston Villa	2.50	0	0	
20304	S Nelson	Aston Villa	3.00	+4	+48	
20401	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	+3	+29	
20402	G Le Saux	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	+2	+31	
20403	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	+22	
20404	G Croft	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	+2	
20501	J McNamara	Celtic	3.00	-1	+38	
20502	T McKinlay	Celtic	3.00	0	+23	
20601	D Petrescu	Chelsea	3.00	+7	+27	
20602	S Charles	Chelsea	2.00	0	+7	
20603	S Minto	Chelsea	1.00	0	-4	
20701	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.50	0	-10	
20702	B Burrows	Coventry City	1.00	0	-10	
20703	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00	0	+6	
20801	C Powell	Derby County	1.50	+4	+10	
20802	D Yates	Derby County	1.00	0	+4	
20901	M Malpas	Dundee United	1.00	0	+45	
20902	M Perry	Dundee United	0.50	0	+44	
20903	N Duffy	Dundee United	0.50	-1	+10	
21001	C Miller	Dunfermline	0.25	0	-5	
21002	A Tod	Dunfermline	0.25	0	-11	
21101	M Hottiger	Everton	2.50	0	-6	
21102	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.00	0	+14	
20603	T Phelan	Everton	2.00	0	-1	
21103	E Barrett	Everton	1.50	0	-1	
21201	G Locke	Hibernian	2.00	0	+25	
21202	N Pointon	Hibernian	1.00	0	+24	
21301	W Miller	Hibernian	1.00	0	+7	
21302	A Dow	Hibernian	1.00	0	+12	
21402	G MacPherson	Kilmarnock	0.50	+4	-1	
21501	G Kelly	Leeds United	2.50	+4	+47	
21502	A Dorog	Leeds United	3.00	+3	+16	
21601	G Halls	Leeds United	1.00	0	+36	
21602	N White	Leeds United	0.50	0	+5	
21603	S Grayson	Leeds United	0.50	-1	+9	
21604	F Relling	Leeds United	0.25	0	0	
21701	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00	0	-1	
21702	S Harkness	Liverpool	1.50	0	-3	
21703	S Bjornbey	Liverpool	0.50	0	+48	
21801	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.00	0	+40	
21802	G Neville	Manchester United	3.00	0	+31	
21803	P Neville	Manchester United	3.00	0	0	
21901	N Cox	Middlesbrough	2.50	0	-11	
21902	C Morris	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-1	
21903	C Fleming	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+9	
21904	C Blackmore	Middlesbrough	0.25	+4	+14	
21905	V Kinder	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+6	
22002	S McKean	Motherwell	0.50	0	+4	
22101	W Barton	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+4	
22102	S Watson	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+21	
22103	R Elliott	Newcastle United	2.50	0	+16	
22104	J Barstford	Newcastle United	2.50	0	+7	
22201	S Pearce	Nottingham Forest	4.00	0	+11	
22202	D Lytle	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0	+9	
22203	A Haisland	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	+20	
22204	N Jerkins	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0	-4	
22301	P Bonar	Raith Rovers	0.75	0	-16	
22302	D Kirkwood	Raith Rovers	0.50	0	-12	
22401	D Robertson	Rangers	2.50	0	+45	
22402	J Brown	Rangers	1.50	0	0	
22501	I Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	-3	+29	
22502	P Abbott	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	-2	+9	
22503	S Nicol	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	0	+10	
22504	D Stefanovic	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	+3	
22505	L Briscoe	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	+3	
22601	J Dodd	Southampton	1.50	+4	-4	
22602	F Benali	Southampton	0.75	+2	+2	
22603	S Charlton	Southampton	0.75	0	+5	
22701	D Kubicki	Sunderland	0.50	0	+4	
22702	M Scott	Sunderland	0.25	0	+6	
22703	G Hall	Sunderland	1.50	0	-1	
22704	D Eriksson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	+4	+8	
22801	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	+12	
22802	J Edinburg	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	+4	+15	
22803	D Kerslake	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0	
22804	S Carr	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	-3	
22901	J Dicks	West Ham United	4.00	0	+23	
22902	T Breacker	West Ham United	1.00	0	+3	
22903	K Rowland	West Ham United	1.00	0	+2	
22904	M Bowen	West Ham United	1.50	0	+9	
23001	B Thatcher	Wimbledon	0.75	0	+13	
23002	A Kimble	Wimbledon	0.75	-1	+26	
23003	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0	
23004	D Jupp	Wimbledon	0.25	0	+40	
23005	C Perry	Wimbledon	0.25	0	+40	

CENTRAL DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	Ov
30101	B Irvine	Aberdeen	1.50	0	+1	
30102	C Woodthorpe	Aberdeen	2.50	0	+1	
30103	A Komboare	Arsenal	4.00	0	+43	
30201	A Adams	Arsenal	3.00	0	+41	
30202	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	0	+50	
30203	M Keown	Arsenal	1.00	0	+14	
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.50	+4	+42	
30302	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.00	+4	+70	
30303	R Scimeca	Aston Villa	1.00	0	+28	



Pressman, the Sheffield Wednesday goalkeeper, was not the man to have guarding your ITF fortunes this week

CENTRAL DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	Ov
30401	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	0	+32	
30402	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+3	
30403	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	-3	
30404	N Marker	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	+6	
30501	T Boyd	Celtic	3.00	0	+33	
30502	M MacKay	Celtic	1.50	0	+37	
30503	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.50	-1	+22	
30504	B O'Neill	Celtic	3.00	+3	+4	
30505	S Annon	Celtic	3.00	0	+4	
30601	M Dabney	Chelsea	2.50	0	+1	
30602	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	2.50	+4	+33	
30603	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	+4	-2	
30604	D Lee	Chelsea	2.00	0	+3	
30605	A Myers	Chelsea	1.50	+4	+5	
30606	E Johnson	Chelsea	1.50	0	+13	
30701	L Dalt	Coventry City	2.00	0	+5	
30702	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	0	+3	
30703	G Green	Coventry City	1.50	0	-1	
30704	A Evtushok	Coventry City	1.50	0	+1	
30801	I Simic	Derby County	2.50	0	-10	
30802	D Wassall	Derby County	1.00	0	0	
30803	P McGrath	Derby County	2.50	0	-4	
30804	J Laurson	Derby County	1.00	+4	+12	
30805	M Carbon	Derby County	0.50	0	-5	
30901	S Pressley	Dunfermline	1.00	0	+50	
31001	M Miller	Dunfermline	0.75	0	-6	
31002	I Dan Blamant	Dunfermline	2.50	0	+12	
31101	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	0	+14	
31102	D Watson	Everton	2.00	0	+6	
31103	C Short	Everton	1.00	0	+30	
31201	D McPherson	Harts	1.00	0	+34	
31202	P Ritchie	Harts	1.00	0	+7	
31301	J McLaughlin	Hibernian	0.50	0	+7	
30902	B Welch	Hibernian	0.75	0	+9	
31302	G Hunter	Hibernian	0.50	0	-3	
32202	S Dennis	Hibernian	1.00	0	-19	
31401	M Reilly	Kilmarnock	1.00	+4	+15	
31402	R Montgomery	Kilmarnock	0.75	+3	+14	
31403	D Wetherall	Leeds United	2.50	+4	+38	
31501	R Johnson	Leeds United	1.00	0	+2	
31502	L Radebe	Leeds United	1.00	+4	+26	
31503	J Pemberton	Leeds United	0.50	0	0	
31504	R Molenaar	Leeds United	2.00	0	+23	
31601	S Walsh	Leicester City	1.00	-1	+11	
31602	J Watts	Leicester City	1.00	0	+8	
31603	P Kaemark	Leicester City	0.50	0	+5	
31604	S Prior	Leicester City	1.00	0	+1	
31605	M Elliott	Leicester City	1.50	-1	+5	
31701	P Babb	Liverpool	3.50	0	+24	
31702	M Wright	Liverpool	3.50	0	+30	
31703	N Rudolph	Liverpool	0.50	0	+4	
31704	D Matteo	Liverpool	1.00	0	+26	
31705	B T Kwame	Liverpool	2.00	0	+3	
31801	G Pallister	Manchester United	3.50	0	+1	
31802	D May	Manchester United	3.00	0	+34	
31803	R Johnson	Manchester United	2.50	+21		
31901	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	1.50	+4	+7	
31902	S Vickers	Middlesbrough	1.50	+4	-6	
31903	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	1.50	-10	-10	
31904	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	-4	
31905	G Festa	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+8	
32001	M McNeill	Motherwell	4.00	-4	-2	
32002	M van der Gaag	Motherwell	0.75	0	+18	
32101	P Albert	Newcastle United	4.50	0	+18	
32102	S Howey	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+7	
32103	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+17	
32201	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0	+5	
32202	S Chetfield	Nottingham Forest	2.50	+4	+14	
32203	C Blatherwick	Nottingham Forest	0.50	0	-12	
32204	R Crabb	Nottingham Forest	0.50	-12	-12	
32304	G Mitchell	Rath Rovers	0.50	0	-10	
32401	R Gough	Rangers	3.50	0	+57	
32402	A McLaren	Rangers	3.00	0	+23	
32403	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50	0	+39	
32404	G Petric	Rangers	2.50	0	+18	
32501	J Newsome	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+15	
32502	C Bannister	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+12	
32503	B Linighan	Sheffield Wednesday	0.25	0	0	
32601	K Monaghan	Southampton	1.50	0	-18	
32602	A Neilson	Southampton	1.00	+4	+7	
32603	R Dryden	Southampton	0.50	+1	-1	
32604	C Lundekvam	Southampton	0.50	0	-1	
32605	U van Gobbelt	Southampton	1.50	+4	+12	
32701	S McElhinney	Swindon	1.00	0	+12	
32702	K Ball	Sunderland	1.00	0	+14	
32703	R Reid	Sunderland	0.50	0	+10	
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+4	+24	
31702	J Scales	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	0	+9	
32802	C Caldwell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+4	+18	
32803	G Maubouet	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+12	
32804	R Percott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	-6	
32807	R Vega	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00	+4	+6	
32901	S Bilic	West Ham United	2.50	0	+10	
32902	M Risper	West Ham United	2.50	+3	+11	
32903	S Potts	West Ham United	2.00	+4	+3	
32904	R Hall	West Ham United	1.50	+3	+4	
32905	R Ferdinand	West Ham United	2.00	0	+1	
33001	A Reeves	Wimbledon	1.00	0	-2	
33003	A Pearce	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0	
33004	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	0.50	0	+16	
33005	B McAllister	Wimbledon	0.50	0	+12	
33006	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.25	0	0	

NEWS

72 hours left to save UK, says Major

■ The Prime Minister issued a warning last night that there were "only 72 hours" to save the United Kingdom.

After a whirlwind tour covering England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, John Major stood outside Parliament to proclaim the "twin threat" posed by a Labour government: the break-up of the UK and a sell-out to Europe. The event was branded a stunt by Labour, which ordered former MPs to campaign in marginal constituencies. Pages 1, 13-16, 22, 23

Currie sends £2,000 bill to newspaper

■ Edwina Currie has sent a £2,000 bill for journalistic services to the newspaper which published her predictions of a Labour landslide. Tory strategists were appalled by the MP's decision to fax an invoice to *The Express* only 24 hours after she had claimed that her comments were off the record. Page 1

Booth to sit as judge

Cherie Booth will sit as a judge within two weeks of becoming the Prime Minister's wife if Labour wins the election. Page 1

Tighter Maze security

Tighter security measures are to be imposed inside the Maze prison after a government inquiry into an IRA attempt to tunnel out of the jail found that the paramilitaries controlled the H-blocks. Page 2

Boy George accused

The singer Boy George was accused in the High Court of being an obsessive and vindictive liar by a man he had described as the love of his life. Page 3

Hounds may die

The Quantock Staghounds may have to put down 60 hounds because of the National Trust's decision to ban stag hunting on its land from the end of this month. Page 3

Minority viewing

Channel 5 is reaching only 45 per cent of the country despite promises when it launched four weeks ago that at least 60 per cent of the population would be able to watch it. Page 5

Rare rhinos arrive

Two wild Asian rhinos from Nepal are expected in Britain today for an international captive breeding programme at Whipsnade Wild Animal Park. Page 5

City rustlers swoop on dales flocks

■ Police have returned a two-week-old lamb found wandering the streets of Sunderland to the North Yorkshire farm 50 miles away from which it had been taken. Lambs are being stolen by urban rustlers from their unfenced pastures and reared in the unlikely setting of council allotments. After six months they are killed for the rustler's freezer or to sell. Page 5

Cost of caring

A man who gave up his job to look after his ailing mother must sell his home to pay for her care, the High Court ruled. Page 7

Testing time

Examination pressure on children from the age of seven onwards means demand for revision guides is soaring, publishers said, as an unprecedented number of pupils prepared for national tests. Page 8

Kohl olive branch

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, has offered a tentative olive branch to the next British Government and said he was certain that Britain would eventually join the single currency. Page 17

Hutu refugees found

Thousands of exhausted and dehydrated Rwandan Hutu refugees were reported to have emerged from thick forest in Zaire, about 30 miles south of Kisangani. Page 18

Forces' morality code

The Pentagon is introducing a strict code of morality for America's armed services after numerous sex scandals. Page 19

Titanic overdraft

Eighty-five years after the sinking of the *Titanic*, a film attempting to re-create that fateful night is months behind schedule and up to \$90 million (£55 million) over budget. Page 19



Salt farmers at work near Bangkok, Thailand, yesterday: the sea salt is extracted for use in food and preservative production

BUSINESS

Co-op: Hambros Bank and Travers Smith Braithwaite, the solicitor, who both advised Andrew Regan on his aborted bid for the Co-operative Wholesale Society, settled out of court with the CWS. They agreed damages thought to be over £1 million. Page 29

Economy: The "feel-good" factor has hit a ten-year high but consumers are crediting building society windfall payments rather than the Government. Page 29

Sears: Sears is to demerge its Selfridges department store business. Page 29

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 20 points to close at 4389.7. Sterling rose from 99.7 to 99.9 after a rise from \$1.6230 to \$1.6237 and from DM2.797 to DM2.8054. Page 32

SPORT

Cricket: Ireland were four wickets from their first win over a county side when they reduced Middlesex to 134 for six in the Benson and Hedges Cup. Page 56

Football: Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, put his squad through their paces in their penultimate training session for the World Cup qualifier against Georgia. Page 56

Snooker: John Parrott claimed a place in the quarter-finals of the Embassy world championship in Sheffield with a 13-11 victory over Anthony Hamilton. Page 56

Rugby league: Scott Gibbs is seeking a temporary release from his rugby union contract with Swansea to play for St Helens in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final. Page 56

ARTS

Grimm smile: Roderick Watkins's opera *The Juniper Tree* had its premiere at the Munich Biennale and turned out to be a very British triumph, with a very Grimm fairy-tale. Page 38

Women on top: Richard Cork reviews London shows by two pioneering British artists — the macabre work of Christine Borland, and the raw self-exposure of Tracey Emin. Page 39

High old time: EMI celebrated its hundredth birthday in high style — and at steep prices — with a line-up including Hampson, Lort, Alagna and George. Page 39

Cash up front: Johnny Cash remains the rough-cut king of country, displaying his wild appeal at the Albert Hall. Page 40

BODY AND MIND

Early learning: How much should children be told about drugs when children as young as ten already have a detailed knowledge of the drug scene? Page 20

Keep away: David Charter reports on how the young are being educated about and warned against drugs. Page 20

My junkie sister: The love that connects siblings enables "clean" children to enact "tough love". And rightly or wrongly, my love does not allow me to write Tess off — not yet, at least. Page 21

LAW

Blackmail: When a private contractor wheel-clamps a car parked for only a few minutes and demands an exorbitant fee, can he be prosecuted for blackmail? Page 43

Save the children: More could be done to counter the sexual exploitation of children, argues Allan Levy, QC. Page 41

THE PAPERS

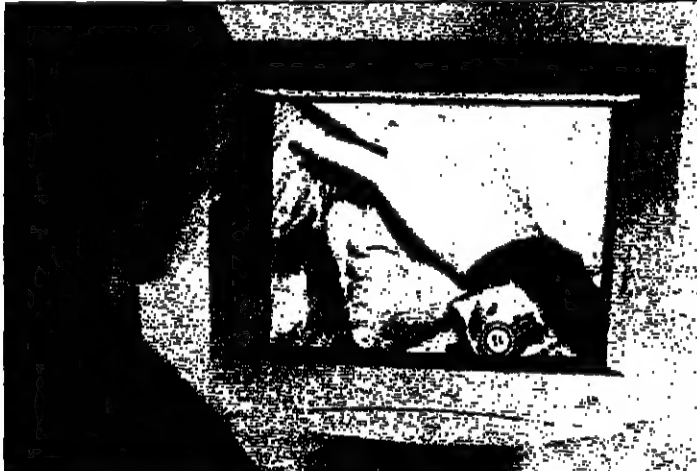
The Turkish military are a step away from getting rid of Necmettin Erbakan, who for the past ten months has led the first Islamic government in Turkey since the end of the Ottoman Caliphate. Turkey thus faces the same dilemma as Algeria in 1992: can power be entrusted to those who seek to use democracy to create an Islamic state which would then suppress democracy? — *La Repubblica*

TOMORROW

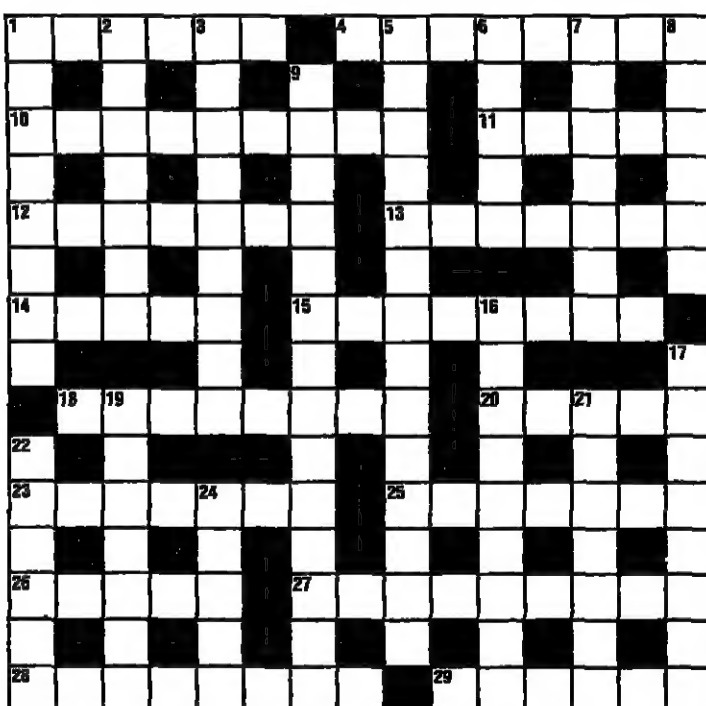
IN THE TIMES

■ INTERFACE
Stalkers have moved onto the Internet. Now they are themselves on the run

■ HOMES
You can do it yourself or hire professionals: either way, moving house is seldom easy



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,466



- ACROSS
- Lower or upper-class girl with a Home Counties following (6).
 - Like a good monk, taking to Bede in translation (8).
 - Maurice who was one up in France (9).
 - Loathe being trapped by Arab horsemen (5).
 - Drier in kitchen is hard to pull around (7).
 - Foreign royal visitor, fascinated by unique tree in nursery (7).
 - Flyover not opened in area of high pressure (5).
 - Angle he'll present as a dissolute old fellow (8).
 - American disaster movie seen in this? (8).
 - Critical comments for audience in show (5).
 - Crown's bare skin visible, having nothing on (7).
- DOWN
- Half-made fruit drinks for play-offs (8).
 - Favoured minor in part of garden (7).
 - Deep breath? (3-6).
 - Guides supporting construction of brick we see one side of the border (7,7).
 - Happy, perhaps, making notes about conflict (5).
 - It can be found in new ale and hot rum (7).
 - Direction keeps Henry in step (6).
 - Artistic work that needs an index (6,8).
 - A heavenly time, hopefully, from now on (9).
 - Plot dates in order to provide framework for retirement (8).
 - Part of pitch in Liverpool ground reopened (7).
 - Apparent evil besetting relative (7).
 - Jack's World digest? (6).
 - Repeating decimal? (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,465

SMARM BOOKMAKER
T E R A O L I
ESTUARIES TWEED
R G C I H P E
EMBARRASSMENT
O U E B R O I
TOTS TRAWLERMAN
Y T F A I D A G
P I E B I S C I T E U N D
E R L H S I T H
F A I R H A N D S Q U A R E
F L P M R U A
A L I B I A V A L A N C H E
S E N T I W W U N
T A S M A N I A N K N E I T

Times Two Crossword, page 56

AA INFORMATION

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday, highest day temp: Poole, Dorset, 19C
1987's lowest day temp: Llandudno, Shropshire, 8C
1987's highest rainfall: Colcal Cully, Gwynedd, 0.71m
highest sunshine: Clacton, Essex, 7 hrs

NEWSPAPERS
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Recycled paper made up
41.2% of the raw material for
UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

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http://www.wpahealth.com

FORECAST

■ General: England and Wales should see any showers dying out from the west as the morning goes on. Most places will then have a dry day with sunny spells, but cloud will increase from the west later. It will be warm, with the northwesterly breeze dying down.

Scotland and Northern Ireland should be mostly dry with sunny spells. Northeastern parts of Scotland will have showers or some longer spells of rain for a time. It will be breezy at first.

■ London, SE England, E Anglia, E England, NE England: showers dying out, then dry with sunny spells. Wind northwesterly, fresh, moderating. Max 17C (63F).

■ Central S. England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Channel Isles, NW England, Lake District, Central N. England: generally dry with clear or sunny spells. Wind northwesterly, moderate to fresh.

■ SW England, S Wales, N Wales, Isle of Man, and N Ireland: dry at first with sunny spells, becoming cloudy with drizzle later. Wind west or northwesterly, mainly moderate. Max 14C-16C (57F-61F).

■ Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, and NW Scotland: showers dying out, then dry with clear or sunny spells. Wind northwesterly, moderate to fresh. Max 13C (55F).

■ Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, and Shetland: mostly cloudy with showers or longer spells of rain. Wind westerly, moderate to fresh. Max 10C-12C (50F-54F).

■ Outlook: cloudy and damp in the west, the east dry with sunny spells.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY
04 hrs to 5 pm: b=brilliant; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dust; f=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; st=stale; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

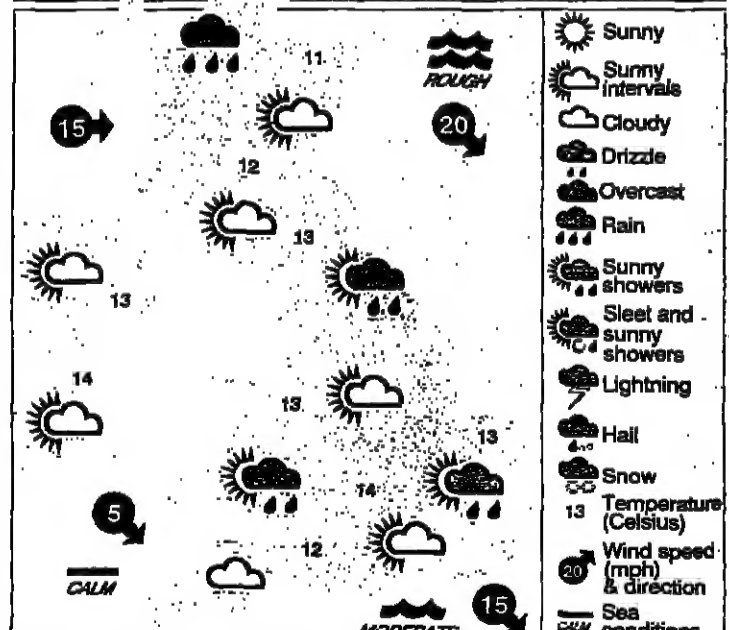
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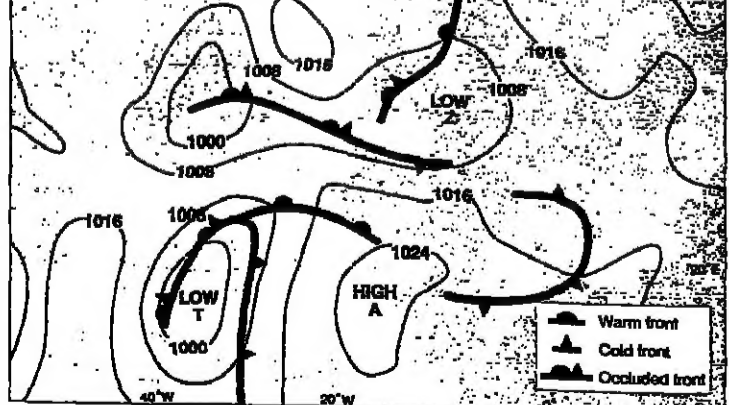
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NOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: high A will move north and build; low Z will continue to fill and move east; low T will fill and move north



High Tides
TODAY
London Bridge 06.51 AM
Aberdeen 06.27 AM
Belfast 04.02 AM
Cardiff 10.39 AM
Dover 03.51 AM
Dunfermline 04.48 AM
Glasgow 04.48 AM
Hull (Humber) 11.22 AM
Hull (Tyne) 11.07 AM
Hull (York) 11.27 AM

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Hull (Tyne) 11.07 AM
Hull (York) 11.27 AM

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